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W D Koenig

1978

Melanerpes formicivorus

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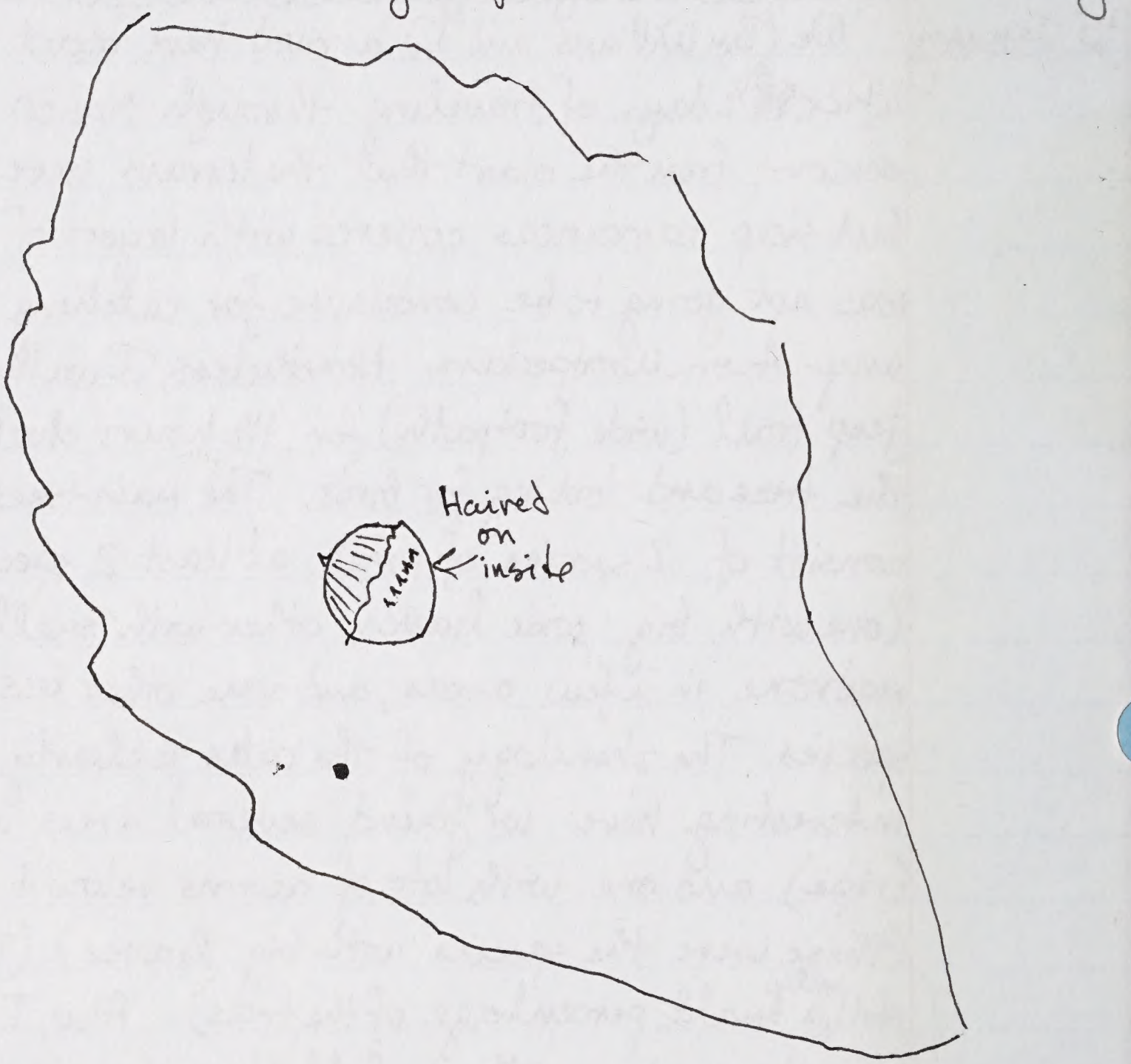
El Batel, Durongo Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico, elev. 5700 ft.

15 January We (Pam Williams and I) arrived here about 1130 today after 4½ days of traveling through Mexico. It was obvious from the start that the terrain here (beautiful but steep barrancas covered with layers of vegetation) was not going to be conducive for catching or following any Acorn Woodpeckers. Nonetheless, I walked along a jeep trail (wide footpath) for 1½ hours checking out the trees and looking for birds. The main trees here consist of 2 species of pines, at least 2 species of oaks (one with big, wide leaves, other with smaller leaves), madrone in a few areas, and some other less recognizable species. The phenology of the oaks is clearly quite interesting here: we found several trees with acorns (ripe) and one with lots of acorns below it as well (these were the species with big leaves). (This was still only a small percentage of the trees). Also, I actually found one tree in full bloom bearing numerous clumps of catkins! (This was the species with smaller leaves). Quite interesting. As for Acorn Woodpeckers, I finally saw one and heard a second, below me in a smallish dead pine. They were soon gone and did not reappear. While passing by the tree, I noted no sign of storage there (or anywhere else, for that matter). Maybe they don't store? or perhaps they store in the epiphytes, most everywhere in the oaks? Most of the pines were quite small, and there were almost no snags, leading me to suspect that there's been quite a lot of logging here.

"Big-leafed Oak" (see also 20 January)



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(15 January) A little later in the afternoon, after lunch, we drove partway through the village and then Pam and I retraced my steps, again first on the upper path and then returning on the lower. The primary activity which I engaged in this time was to categorize the fruiting phenology of the oaks which were along the path into one of 4 classes for each of the 2 species (one the Big leaved, wide acorned species and two the 4 narrow-leaved, teeny-acorned species; no other species were evident). The results of this survey were as follows [see back of sheet]. We also noted 3 types of pines in the area: ① long-leaved (10"), weeping pine with 5/fascicle; some individuals of this most common species were heavily laden with pollen; ② shorter-leaved (6"), not-so-weeping pine with 3/fascicle; ③ another 6" leaved pine whose needles hang nearly straight down. I'll get more information on these trees later. Also we noted the local rose-bush (blackberry-type bush) flowering and fruiting already. All in all this suggests some very different patterns than those seen in California.

P. lumholtzii

On the way back I walked out an overgrown path next to the pine where the AW had been ~~this~~ earlier and indeed came across them: 2 ♂♂ sitting 2 feet apart in one of the "Big-leaved" oaks. 4 Within several seconds one moved down to a fork and began eating an acorn. This tree was, as it happened, laden with

Oak phenology at El Batel, 15 Jan. 1978

	Big-leaved, Wide Acorn Species		Narrow-leaved, teeny-acorn species	
No sign of flowers or acorns on or below tree	15	54%	5	25%
Many acorns in tree	4	14%	6	30%
Few acorns in tree, many acorns and/or cups on ground	9	32%	8	40%
Flowers (catkins)	0	0%	1	5%
TOTAL	28		20	

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El Batel, Durango Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico, 5700ft.

(15 January) acorns. The time was 1530 and it was all about 100 ft. away from the dead pine. The oak was fairly large, but was in among the surrounding vegetation - not emergent. A search revealed no storage holes in it as far as I could tell. Subsequent observations:

1540: 2♂♂ still in tree. I just picked another acorn out of the canopy.

1545. A ♂ flew to a nearby bromeliad and landed on the edge, then reached inside it. Unfortunately I saw him take nothing out (could they store in these things?). One or 2 more birds giving some karrits now nearby. 3-4 birds here altogether.

1550. A ♀ now in a small sapling 25 ft up eating an acorn stuck into a vertical hole! A few more calls (all karrits) down the valley now. Possibly even another group.

This all presents an intriguing picture of AW life around here. Some obvious questions/speculation:

1) densities very low
2) few if any stores
3) oak phenology [& insects?] such that acorns are available on the trees throughout much of the winter
4) still in groups [2♂♂ for sure together here].
5) no apparent dependence on emergent/open trees.
6) birds are not especially vocal.
7) This area needs more watching.

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1 km W. El Palmito, Durango Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico, elev. 6800 ft.

16 January Today Pam and I walked along roads leading in from the fire-house (now deserted) just 1 km from El Palmito (the spot discussed in Peter Alden's book). We walked through excellent Pine-Oak habitat (still rather devoid of quite large individuals of either, however, but still thick woodland) for several hours, and never once saw nor heard any AW. Quite amazing. (I know they're here somewhere, however - perhaps our late start and the cloudy weather inhibited seeing any). We'll try here again tomorrow.

17 January This morning we again took the walk out to the barranca, as well as taking in some extra pine-oak woodland on some other trails as well but once again, despite a constant vigilance, ~~saw~~ ~~neither~~ ~~nor~~ neither saw nor heard any Acorn Woodpeckers. At least one oak near the edge of the barranca had a very good acorn crop (most of which had already fallen) and we collected 100 or so of them (it was the "Big-leaved" species we came across at El Batel). Hopefully I'll get a chance to look at insect damage in them.

Durango Hwy between El Palmito and El Salto to Durango, Mexico

During the afternoon we casually drove east along the highway, admiring the incredible views and keeping an eye out for Woodpeckers or their works. We were rewarded several times, as listed below:

1) 9 m E. El Palmito 8600' elev. Old Pine Storage snag.

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Durangotlwy between El Palmito and El Salto, Durango, Mexico

(17 January) no sign of it being in use at present. No woodpeckers seen. But an old Granary for sure (picture taken)

2) 24M E. El Palmito. 8400'. Old Pine, again no sign of use at present. Not positive, but looked fairly sure.

3) 27M E. El Palmito. 2 more, together. Still no sign of use.

4) 29M E. El Palmito. 1 more, same as above.

Most of this country was incredibly steep and no place to carefully search for birds, but the notable absence of any stored acorns, as well as the rather sparse distribution of the granaries themselves, makes me sceptical about the presence of a thriving population here. Most likely there are but a few scattered groups such as appears to be the case at El Barbel or near El Palmita. Nonetheless, the former presence of a thriving (=storing) groups of woodpeckers here is indisputable.

26M. E. El Salto, Durango, Mexico 8600' elev.

18 January We stopped here in the midst of a promising-looking Pine-Oak woodland full of Bushtits, W. Bluebirds, Robins, Brown+Rufous-sided Towhees, Brown Creepers, Juncos etc. (in short, very much like the Sierras!) and I walked around for ½ hour searching in vain for the Acorn Woodpeckers. (A definite problem was the very intense wind and chilly (50°F) temperature outside, slowing down both me and the birds). Finally, after returning and standing next

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26M. E. El Salto, Durango, Mexico 8600' elev.

(18 January) to the car, I heard the definitive karrit (we have yet to here a waka anywhere in Mexico) and I soon discovered a bird near the road. It was a ♀, and she obligingly flew down low (7' off the ground) into an oak on a dead limb and proceeded to peck away and eat part of an acorn. After watching for a minute I walked over, scaring her away, and climbed up into the tree itself to look at the spot. There was evidence of acorn-eating in several nooks and crannies (old acorn shells, acorn cups) but no stores. I walked around the area a little but saw no granary. The woodland here (and most likely the general AW situation) was quite similar to the next spot we stopped, however, so I'll defer a detailed description until then.

1 Santa Barbara, 27M. W. Durango (35M E. El Salto) Durango, Mexico. elev. 7900 feet. [27 miles along the road from the Durango PEMEX]

Here we finally hit the jackpot, when, after chasing a Scrub Jay for a bit, I turned upon an Acorn Woodpecker and followed him to a real, true-to-life, granary, complete with stores and all. I proceeded to search an area of land perhaps 1/4 mile by 1/8 mile, looking for other granaries or birds. Later in the day, on our way back from Durango, I did the same thing just a little further up the road. I also looked at the trees carefully and took some pictures

The "Yellow Pine" at Santa Barbara, Durango

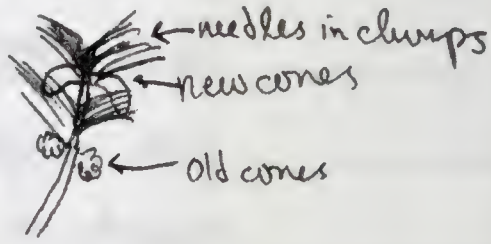
Number of needles per fascicle: 3,3,4,3,4,4,3,3,3,3,3,4,3,3

Bark: jig-saw type, just like Yellow Pine

Cones: New and old both on tree; distributed in whorls of 2-4 around the branch. One old cone was 9cm long and 7cm wide.

Scales fairly thick. Tips thickened. No stalk.

No spines or hooks on cone. (No prickles)
Scales fairly thick



Foliage: in dense thickets near end of limbs.

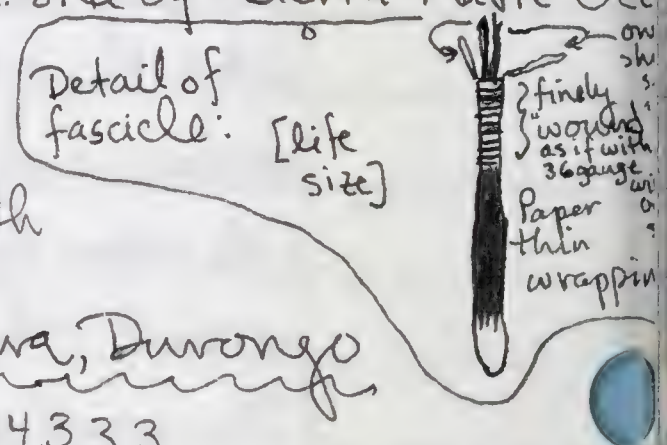
Needle length: 30-32cm.

Quite common here and all through E. side of Sierra Madre Occ

Very heavily logged for lumber.

Fascicles very scaly (looks bound: →)

Needles green, with whitish streaks underneath



The "Lodgepole Pine" at Santa Barbara, Durango

Number of needles per fascicle: 3,3,4,3,3,3,4,3,3,3

Bark: like a Red fir. Not jig-saw at all. Dark (or sugar Pine—deep red underneath; furrow

Cones: Only "old" ones noted on tree, scattered here and there singly. One cone 5.5cm long by 4.5cm wide.

No prickles. Scales fairly thick

Tip of scales thickened. Has a short stalk →

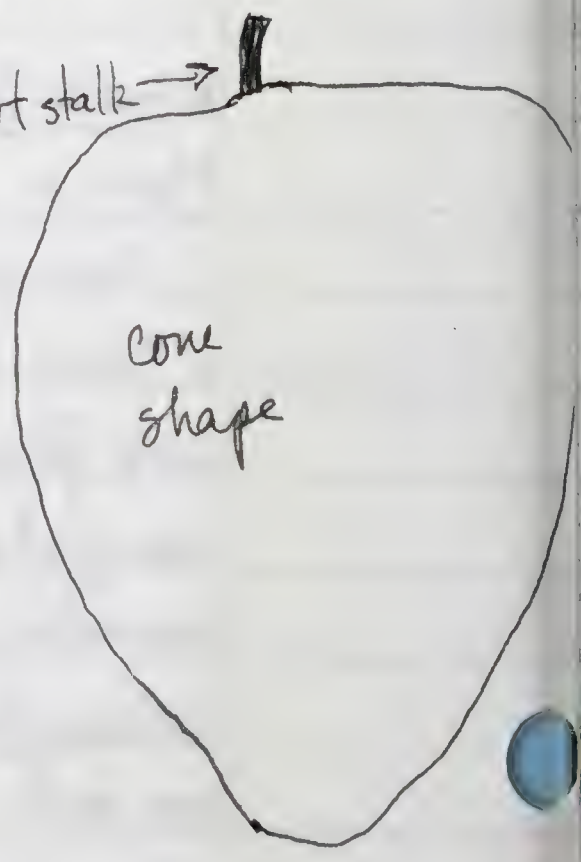
Fascicles not scaley

Needles green.

Foliage not dense, in small clumps

Needle length: 6-9cm.

Not logged.



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Santa Barbara, 27 M. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico. 7900' elev.

(18 January) and samples, as well as getting about 25 stored acorns for later analysis.

The granaries found (first 5 in the morning, the other 6 in the afternoon) sized up as follows:

DBH (cm)	Species	Alive?	In use?	
60	"Yellow-pine" [see below]	dead	Yes	In draw. Storage in dead wood + old bark
40	"	"	Yes	In open woodland
30	"	"	Yes	In open woodland.
30	"	"	Yes	" " "
29	"	Alive	Yes	" " " storage in bark
32 } 50 ft. apart	"	Alive	Yes	" " " storage in dead limb
45 }	"	"	Yes	" " " storage in bark
35	"	Dead	No	" " " Mostly fallen
46	"	"	Yes	" " " Mostly fallen
42	"	"	Yes	" " " Storage in bark
22	"	"	Yes	" " " " " "

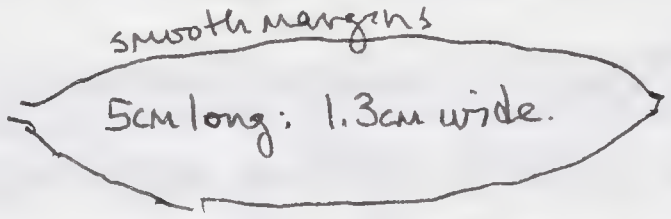
Amazingly enough, virtually no birds were ever seen, except for the one I saw at the beginning, one very near that spot drinking from a watertrough, and one other flushed from his granary. No vocalizations were heard. The birds were laying low indeed. (The wind was blowing here all day).

The woodland here was quite flat (except for occassional dry washes) and open, with wide areas of bunchgrass in between the trees. There were no real large trees here, though there had been no obvious logging activity. Most likely it had been

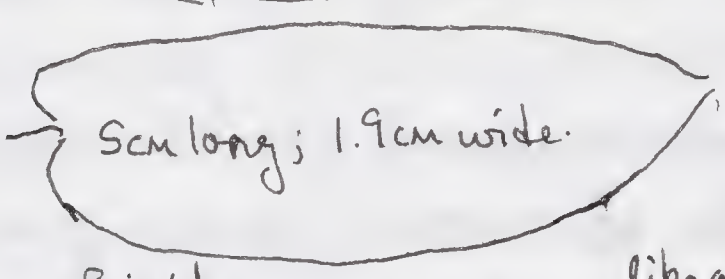
The "Golden Oak" at Santa Barbara, Durango

This oak had dark, smooth bark.

Leaves: smooth margins



[Evergreen]



Top Bright Green, no hairs

like a white powder

Underside densely fuzzy, whitish fuzz, very short.

Acorns small, 1.1 x .8cm, inconspicuously streaked with green (like live oak)

buffy color when ripe.

Inner shell densely (short) fuzzy (Black oak like)

Nut Yellow.

Very common all through E. side Sierra Madre Occ.

The "Blue Oak" at Santa Barbara, Durango

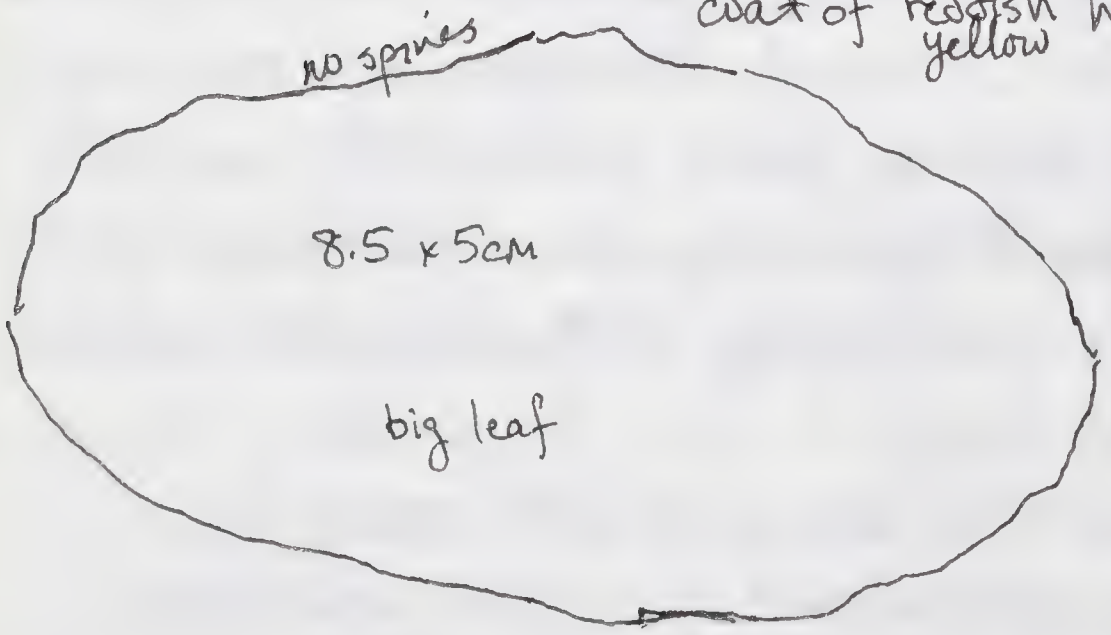
This oak had light, shallowly furroughed bark (like SQ. douglasii

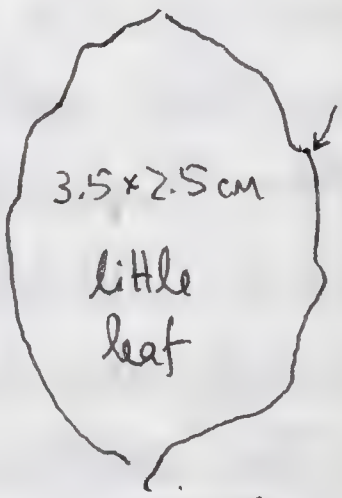
Leaves variable, wider but otherwise not unlike Q. douglasii.

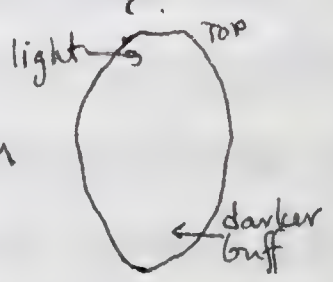
Evergreen. Top very slightly blueish, but greener than "Blue (

barely waxy

Underside light green;
covered with moderately dense, short coat of reddish yellow hairs.







Acorns light buffy → 1.8×1.1cm

No hairs on inside Shell thin.

Nut dark

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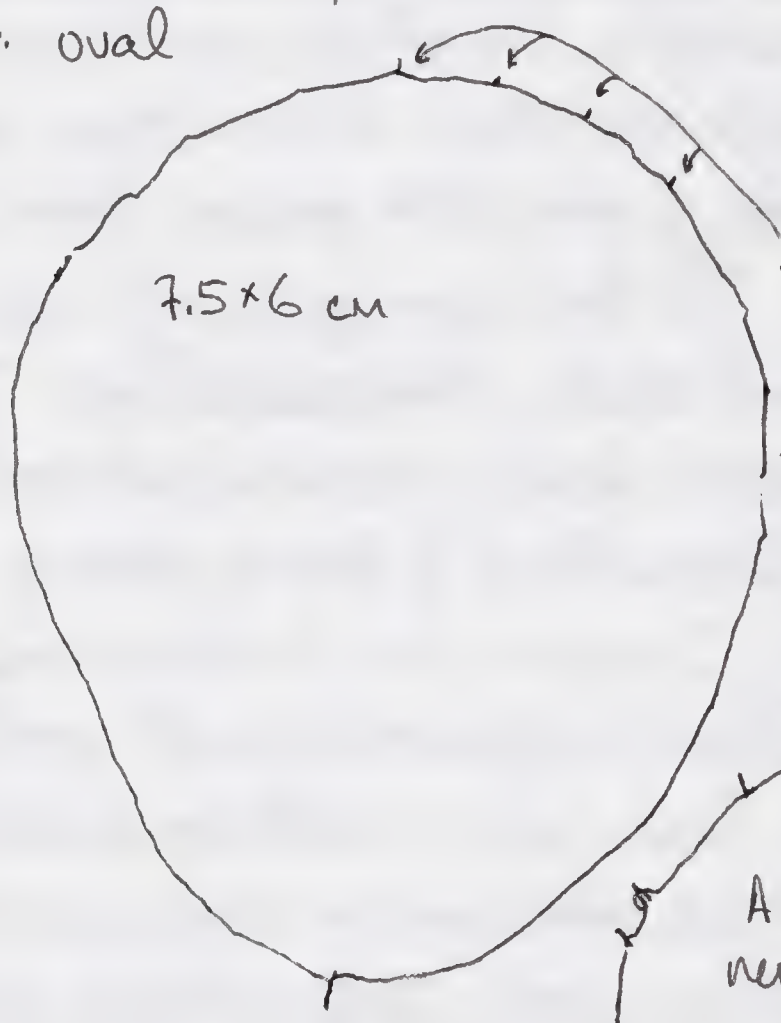
Santa Barbara, 27 m. W. Durongo, Durongo, Mexico, elev. 7900'
(18 January) logged sometime ago). The shrubs were primarily a Manzanita with some other various kinds mixed in. I only saw 2 kinds of pine, both fairly common and co-dominant. The first was quite a lot like Yellow Pine, and is most likely Montezuma Pine. The bark is identical, and it was in the bark (and dead wood) of this species alone that I found storage holes and stored acorns. This pine has 3 rather long needles per
(2 to 4)-s fascicle, rather large cones that grow in clusters around the limb, and is rather densely leaved. The second pine has darker bark, shorter needles, and small cones, looks rather like a lodgepole pine, and was not used at all by the woodpeckers.

As for the oaks, there appeared to be 3 species. The first ~~o~~ had leaves very like a Golden Oak, but had very small acorns [⟶ ○ like so]. It was quite common, far more so than either of the other 2 species. Every stored acorn I looked at (≈50) was most likely from this species, and all storage holes noted were correspondingly minute. I did not notice any trees with acorns still in the canopy, though some had quite a few on the ground below them. The second species was present in fair/poor numbers, but included a few large individuals. It looked rather like a Blue Oak, especially the bark and the leaves, which were somewhat large for your average douglasii however. No acorns were found. The third was

The [quite uncommon] "Live Oak" at Santa Barbara, Durongo

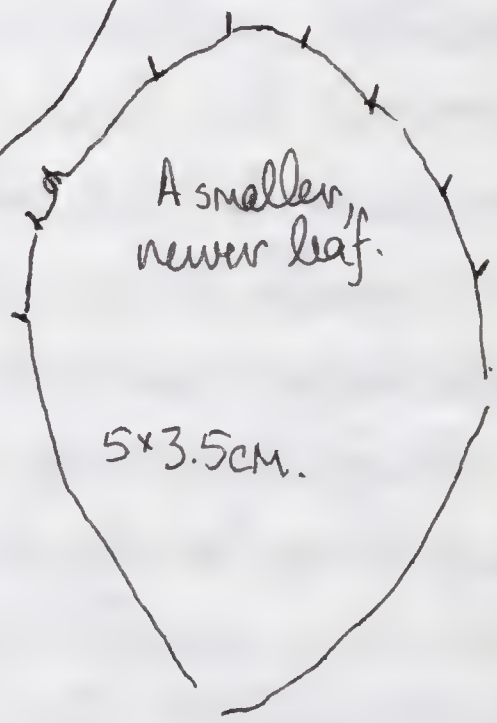
I have no information on the bark or acorns of this uncommon, third species. It is also evergreen.

Leaves: oval



Small prickles on edge (4 or 5 at top of vein on each side)

Top gray-brown.
Underside shiny, smooth, light green, not haired



Leaves quite leathery.

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Santa Barbara, 27 M. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico, elev. 7900'

(18 January) quite rare here (I only saw a very few small trees), ~~that~~ and was rather like a large-leaved agrifolia. I found no acorns of it either. I did take samples of all 3 so hopefully I'll be able to identify them all eventually. All were evergreen.

Other trees of not great importance here were Madrones (none flowering here!) and some sort of Juniper.

1.5 M. W. Cruz de Piedra, 50.5 M. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico, 8200'

There is a side road here which leads to an open pine-oak forest ~~where~~ where we camped last night and tonight. This evening before dusk we walked around a bit, giving me a chance to note the vegetation, which is quite similar to the Santa Barbara locality consisting of all the same species in a relatively open woodland. However, it was clear here that logging activity had been intense and quite selective, having for all practical purposes entirely cleared the area of the "yellow-pine" type species. I only saw one young intact tree on our walk, while numerous stumps attested to ~~its~~ the former presense of numerous large individuals in the area. Coincident with this, we discovered no trace whatsoever of any Acorn Woodpeckers here during any of the time we were here. Clearly the removal of this one species, ~~de~~ used selectively for storage, is an effective way to rid ~~the~~ an area of these birds.

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Santa Barbara, 27 km. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico, elev. 7900'

19 January As we stepped out of the car we finally heard some good wekas from the distance - a good sign that the calm and warm day will offer a better opportunity to see something here. First we went over to the same general area where all the storage trees were and did 10 11.26m radius vegetation transects, centered 50 paces apart in a rectangular fashion, starting more or less at random in the forest. We measured the size of the trees present, their identities, and % canopy and shrub cover, done using each of 25 paces West from the center of the plot as a sample point. There was quite a lot of activity in the vicinity of the last plot (near the 60cm DBH granary), so Pam stayed there to watch for activity while I walked over to the first granary we found, over by the road.

By 1300 (after ½ hour) no birds had shown up here, and I wandered off to try elsewhere.

After watching futilely at another granary for 25min., I walked ~~xxx~~ around until 1430, flushing an occassional Acorn Woodpecker and noting the oak phenology here: (see back). When a woodpecker was flushed it usually flew way off in the distance. Perhaps their home ranges are quite large this time of year.

The avifauna here is an interesting combination of typical California Pine-Oak Woodland birds with a few neat neotropical specialities thrown in. A bird list for this morning (with some species seen elsewhere in nearby in similar habitat or here yesterday) is in my journal.

Oak phenology at Santa Barbara, 27 mi. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico, 19 January 1978

	"Golden Oak" species		"Blue Oak" species	
No sign of acorns or flowers on or below tree	9	30%	6	40%
Many Acorns In tree	1	3%	0	0%
Few or no acorns in tree, many acorns +/or cups on ground	20	67%	9	60%
Flowers	0	0%	0	0%
Total	30		15	

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El Batel, Durango Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico, elev. 5700 ft.

20 January 1200. We returned to the spot where the AW were several days ago and found nothing, though we did hear some karrits from far off across the valley. Waiting here now, in view of the pine snag (which has a few (~100) holes which could be storage holes, but no stored acorns as far as I can tell) to see if anyone will return.

1208. More karrits from down the valley.

1230. More karrits. Getting closer. Meanwhile Pam found a section of a trunk of one of the "Big-leafed" oaks here which has numerous holes looking very much like Acorn Woodpecker sap holes. Unfortunately none appear to be active, but most are rather randomly arranged 2-3 cm. apart (a few are almost aligned in a horizontal row). They give every impression of being sap holes. They are spread over an area of trunk 15ft long beginning 25-30ft. above the ground.

1250. Climbed into the tree where the birds had been sitting the other day, checking the epiphytes and moss for signs of stores. I didn't find any, but I did confirm that the base of the Bromeliads do hold water (and spiders, etc.), suggesting the possibility that the bird I saw landing on one did so to drink.

The DBH of the pine snag here is 43.5cm. Though the bark is perhaps not as nice as the "Yellow-Rivo" type (I think it was another species) it clearly has been around long enough to potentially get holes + stores put in it (if the birds stored here at all).

1315. Still no sign of birds here. Off to walk the trail.

The "Big-leafed" oak at El Batel, Sinaloa

3 representative leaves.

Bright green above
Light green below, some hair lining veins only.

Not toothed.

Evergreen

Top

Acorn.
Sort of oblong sphe

Densely furred on inside (green acorn looks like lined with silk)

Cap.

Nut almost looks like a filbert.

Melanerpes formicivorus

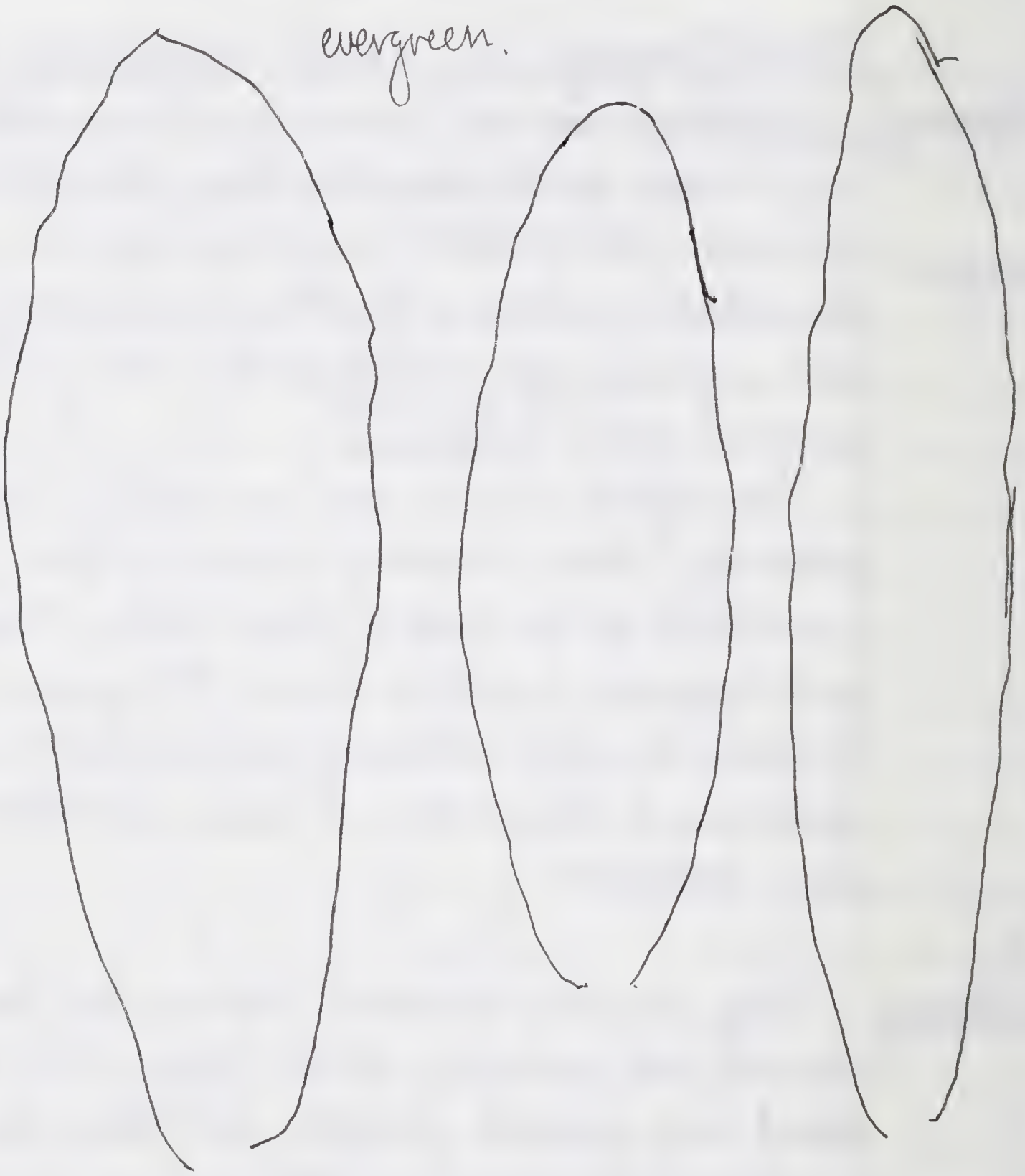
El Batel, Durango Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico, elev. 5700'

(20 January) We walked around various trails here until nearly 1600, seeing quite a few interesting birds but no sign (!) of acorn woodpeckers, anywhere (not even any calls elsewhere!). We were greeted upon our return, unfortunately, with a smashed rear window and the looting of Pam's suitcase and a lantern.

The vegetation here was cursorally (?) described previously. Some increased detail on the 2 main oaks is available on the back of these sheets. There is also, as it happens, a rather rarer 3rd species of oak, I think, one with extensive white powder on the underside of the leaves. I have no further information on it, however.

21 January Today we were led around the area by José Angel, who we met yesterday while trying to do something about our smashed window. He knows the Acorn Woodpecker (el Carpintero) well, and we eventually were able (with some difficulty, as our Spanish is not even rudimentary) to convey our desire to see trees with stored acorns in them. He proceeded to take us up around the hills above Batel, taking us especially to at least one spot, where there were several beautiful oaks in a clearing, claiming (not unreasonably) that there were Woodpeckers here, but that there storage tree (looked for in vain) had been cut down 2 months before by loggers.

The "Narrow-leafed" oak at El Batel



Unfortunately, the leaves I have at the moment are all pretty dead, but the underside of them has only a slight amount of fuzz in the vicinity of the veins.

The acorns of this species are very small, circa: ○ on this order.

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El Batel, Durango Hwy, Sinaloa, Mexico. 5700' elev.

(21 January) (I have to admit that this may not be precisely what he said, ~~as~~ our Spanish being what it is, but this clearly was the implication [that a granary formerly there was now gone]). We continued on for another hour or so, but found no other storage trees at all (José's search after this first spot seemed to be more random). In fact, we heard but one short set of kawits the entire time. As for this logging business, our suspicion is that it is indeed very important. We did, in fact, come across several cut sections of large pines of a "Yellow-Pine" variety (probably (?) not the same species as on the East side, but then possibly so [the problem here is that no large individuals of this species have been left standing, so its foliage/cones could not be examined. The possibilities are ① it is the 3needle/fascicle species found on the east side, and is therefore a 4th species along with the 3 described previously (one of which also had very long needles but 5needles/fascicle and weeping foliage, as described on 15 January); ② it is the 5needle/fascicle species, the same as discussed earlier from observation of young individuals (without the characteristic "jig-saw" puzzel bark yet)]. Of these 2 I consider ② more likely), however we noted no large individuals of this pine ~~was~~ still standing. From our experience at Santa Barbara, I suspect

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El Batel, Sinaloa, Mexico, 570' elev.

(21 January) that it is in this species of pine alone that the woodpeckers build granaries. In fact, all the standing trees, including several (6+) snags examined, had a very different type of bark, often furroughed but never the "Yellow Pine" type so beloved by the dear Wickerbills. The closest we came to any storage holes at all was one cut section of a "Yellow Pine" which had 6 or so holes large enough to possibly have been storage holes at one time.

Given this state of affairs, it becomes more comprehensible why there only now appears to be 1 group of perhaps 4 (maybe 5) woodpeckers in this entire area - the granaries of all have (long?) since been cut down. Thus the remaining question may lie more pointedly on how this one remaining group survives. For one thing, it seems inferentially clear that part of their strategy seems to be to range over a very large area, at least during the winter, presumably in search of suitable foraging sites. This is suggested by ① our inability to locate them regularly in the same area ② the calls coming from across the canyon &/or far down the canyon, given our impression that there really can't be more than one group of birds living here ③ José's indication that one can find el Carpintero far down the

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El Batel, Sinaloa Mexico, elev. 5700'

(21 January) canyons (where he initially led us) despite the fact that their granaries are far up the hillsides. The birds were certainly not in any one area the way one can (usually) count on them being in California.

The second way these birds cope may be through the rather interesting phenology of the oaks, as well as the abundance of the acorn crop (there are many many acorns on the ground ~~[illegible]~~ in numerous spots here) providing, at least this winter, what would seem to be a good supply of acorns in the trees at least through February-March, and possibly later.

An alternative to this is that these birds (or relicts, as the case may be) might not be resident at all any more, and may have moved here for the winter from some other area where the acorn crop pooped out this year. In any case it will be interesting to look at whatever notes the Old Farts (Davis, Ptelka, Leopold) might have taken on ~~AW~~ the abundance and/or distribution of AW in this area - because now, with their granaries all down, they are clearly fast approaching extinction here.

1978 Pamela L. Williams

elev. 7900 feet
Santa Barbara, 27 m. W. Durango, Durango, Mexico

19 January Saw 2 ♂♂ sitting together and a ♀ flew near-by. Started watching granary at 12:20 - on ♂ on top looking in ~~her~~ acorn hole flew away. Left at 1300 to walk in the direction I have occassionally heard them call from. Back watching granary at 13:20. (Finally hear a bird carrick) 13:45 can see 2 birds ~ 100 yards from granary across gully - will try to move quietly closer. One apparent fly-catching attempt. Heard what sounded like one eating an acorn. Gave up at 14:15.

Santa Barbara

πr^2

granaries much smaller (Mann-Whitney $p < .001$ than Playnett Ridge or Cone Peak)

11 granaries, DBH ($N=11$) $\bar{x} = 37.4$ cm, $SD = 10.6$ cm, $s_{\bar{x}} = 3.2$ cm; $\Sigma x = 411$, $\Sigma x^2 = 16479$

9 ~~dead~~ alive, 2 ~~alive~~ dead (82% dead)

8 dead, 2 alive of those in use (80% dead)

10 circular plots 11.26 M in ~~diameter~~ radius (398.3 M^2 each)

B.A. M^2

	YP(N)	B.A. YP	LP N	LP B.A	G.O N.	G.O B.A	Madrone N.	Madrone B.A.	Total N.	Total B.A.	C.C.	S.C.
1	2	.1431	2	.0194	5	.1286	—		9	.345	16%	0%
2	1	.0302	1	.1662	12	.1306			14	.327	8%	4%
3	—		3	.2432	5	.0441			8	.2873	40	4
4	2	.1167							2	.1167	32	0
5	—		—		2	.0157			2	.0157	16	0
6			1	.0079	1	.0064			2	.0142	8	8
7	3	.2083	1	.1353	3	.0265			7	.3700	4	0
8	1	.0774	3	.3476	5	.2343	1	.0050	10	.6644	40	8
9	5	.1041	—		3	.0621			8	.1663	8	4
10	10	.2291	5	.1573	4	.0501			19	.4365	8	0
$\bar{X}$	2.4	.0909	1.6	.1077	4.0	.0698	.1	.0005	8.1	.2743	18%	2.8%
	30	33%	20	39%	49	25%				25%		

25% 33%

11.26 M Dia

.04 hectare

$\pi r^2 = 398.31\ M^2$

$10{,}000\ m^2 = 1$ hec

$\frac{10000x}{1} \quad \frac{398.31}{x}$

YP = "Yellow Pine" (3needle) 27 m. W. Durango, Durange
LP = "Lodgepole Pine" (4needle)
GO = "Golden Oak"
BO = "Blue Oak"
M = Madrone

dle length
a fir type bark

Santa Barbara Veg Plots
19 Jan 78 elev. 7900'
11.26m ~~in diam~~ radius circle plots

DBH	YP	LP	GO	BO	M	other
①	26.2cm	26.2	23			
	33.7	15.7	18			
			12			
			24			
			8			

16% canopy cover 0% shrub cover E-W transect

②	19.6	46	9
			8
			7
			25.7
			11
			9
			5
			5
			6
			17
			10.5
			11

8% canopy cover 4% shrub cover

③		some holes, no acorns, dead top	6
	29.4		8.8
	34.1		12.5
	32.7		9
			14.5

~~40%~~ 40% canopy cover, 4% shrub cover

④	28.9		
	25.5		

32% canopy cover 0% shrub cover

	YP	LP	GO	BO	M	other
(5)			13			
			10			
	16% Canopy cover		0% shrub cover			
		10	9			
(6)	8% C.C.		8% S.C.			
(7)	36.1	41.5	12			
	29.1		7			
	22.4		12			
	4% Canopy cover		0% S.C.		V	
(8)	31.4	47	8		8	
		46.4	6			
		8	5			
			52.1			
			12			
	4% C.C.	8% S.C.				
(9)	15.6		26.5			
	10.7		5			
	20.4		8			
	14.6					
	18.4					
	8% C.C.	4% S.C.				
(10) 20.4	12.5	18	10.7			
	20.1	17.1	13.6			
	16.2	15.7	14.6			
	16	12.9	11.2			
	13.5	31.2				
	16.1					
	17.6					
	20.8					
	16.9					
	19.2					
	8% Canopy C.		0% S.C.			

28 Jan.

Kept in a plastic bag, many of the acorns picked from the "Big-leafed" oak at the Alden barranca spot sprouted. Picked 17 Jan,

I discarded those that had sprouted by today assuming they were essentially untamaged by insects

Sprouted	Not yet sprouted
10	
10	~~19~~ 20
10	
10	
10	TOTAL ~~76~~ 77
7	
57	

The ~~19~~ 20 that had not yet sprouted and ~~20~~ 20 of those that had (~~38~~ 40 total) were kept.

6 Feb.

Of the 40, 26 had now sprouted

Giving a total of 57 + 6 = 63 sprouts

14 no sprouts

82% viability Minimum

The 14 that didn't sprout ~~split~~ were split

of the 14, 5 had definite insect damage

The other 9 looked O.K.

94% Max. viability

Trees on Wade

Pinus oocarpa
P. lumholtzii — O.K.
P. herrerae

Q. endlichiana
Q. fulva
Q. viminea

? Q. pennivenia

Gentry 1946 Bull Torrey Bot Club ~~51:341-349~~
73:451-462
QK1T6

~~SCB 7F5:E4:T1~~

Lists (in order of dominance for Sierra Surotato)

P. macrophylla
P. ayacahuite
P. oocarpa
P. lumh.
P. pseudostrobus

Q. epilenca
Q. pallescens
Q. durifolia
Q. gentryi
Q. candicans
Q. endlichiana
Q. pennivenia

Contr. from the US Herbarium 23(4)
Trees & Shrubs of Mexico
P.C. Standley 1924

Standley

Q. fulva
Q. trabeculata
Q. standleyi
Q. glaucescens
Q. reticulata
Q. durifolia

Q. eduardi

Q. omissa

Q. arizonica

"Northern"
maybe "Blue Oak" at Santa Ba
~~"Golden Oak"~~

maybe "Golden Oak" at " "

"Narrow leafed oak" at El Balcl

P.R.

Andzhaparidzye / Mazurok / Sokolov / Milashking / Lerko / Arkhipova - Khaikin,

Melanerpes formicivorus

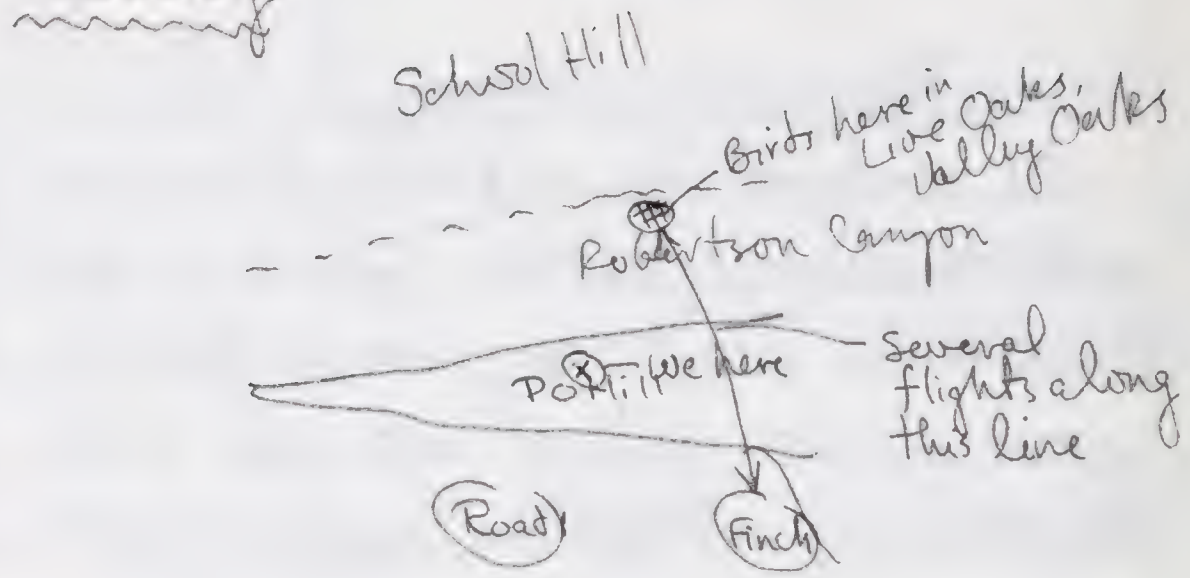
Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., Calif.

1 January 1330. Went with Pam and Ted up Poison Oak Hill. Just as we hit the crest of the trail (100ft or so above the creek) we flushed an AW with a wing-streamer, and then watched for several minutes while 6+ birds were in the trees directly across from us in Robertson Canyon along the road. They picked several acorns (and did some chasing) while we watched, and frequently flew over the hill, apparently to Finch. Several trips in both direction were seen, and there was little doubt that most of these birds were from Finch (♀232 was very possibly seen), though I also suspect that some Road 1 birds may be involved here also (as indicated by the Wing-str. bird, of whom there are none at Finch). It's amazing there are still acorns here! See map on back (this is where I saw birds last time I came up, too).

1410. Just a little further up the path several more birds came by; one was ♀LG(or YL) LW w/Or ● [Road 1 ♀354?] Yes. Certainly birds from several groups are keyed into the acorns here, for obvious reasons.

Up on Poison Oak Hill itself, things were fairly quite, and though 1 or 2 wing-streamered birds were seen, none remained around long enough to be identified. The POHill #1 group lost several hundred holes and a couple hundred acorns in the storm; otherwise several whole trees were downed but other storage areas were intact. The Revolution territory was well supplied with stores, but I didn't see any birds there.

1 January


School Hill
Birds here in Live Oaks, Valley Oaks
Robertson Canyon
several flights along this line
Portable here
Road
Finch

Melanerpes formicivorus

San Geronimo, Marin Co., Calif.

7 March This morning Pam and I went to the home of Jane (+John) Tyler up on a small ridge above the San Geronimo Valley. This area is quite beautiful: tall, beautiful Douglas Firs, with an understory of Tanoak, Live Oaks, and some Redwoods as well. There are many snags, and Acorn Woodpeckers love it. The trip was made to see the birds which come to these people's feeder, some of whom have quite yellow crowns. And indeed they do - it's quite a large group, 10 or more birds - and we were able to pick out 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ who have distinctly yellow crowns. Though their origins are obscure, apparently several are babies, as they do produce babies with Yellow Crowns. In any case, the group has at least 2½ large Doug Fir snags to store it, and lots of Tanoak acorns stored. While I watched one of the Y-C ♂♂ in one of these granaries, he flew off to a nearby Fir, hung for a few minutes on a branch, picked a cone, and flew back to the granary with it - proceeding to stick it into a hole or crack somewhere about ½-way up the tree! Looking carefully, I saw one crack nearby with 10 or more cones in it, and a few others scattered around, stored. During the next 45 minutes we followed this bird and saw him (always a Y-C ♂, presumably the same one) pick and store 6 more cones, which were fresh and common on the Firs in the area. This was even more of a surprise than the Yellow-crowned birds, though the very small seeds of these things makes it hard for me to believe that they are a real good food source. But who knows - I collected several cones for future dissection.

Douglas fir cones

Those that I collected, though rather, fresh, seem to already have shed most of their seeds. Some were collected, however. Of four cones, the number of scales each had was 40, 38, 36, and 32; thus the total maximum number of seeds any could have would be 40×2(seeds/scale) = 80. The seeds were very small, and will be weighed later.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co. Calif.

15 March 1115. A bird giving two Carricks along the Arnold road just up from the Gate (by the 1st little clearing where I park the truck in the winter) was an ub ♀.

16 March 1000. Flushed ≥3 birds from P.O. Hill #1 area, including ♂ Or/M/ #374 (one of last spring's babies). 1030. Now watching for a spell. These birds do have stores still.

1130. By now I have a minimum of ①♂ub, ②♀; ③~~♂ub~~ ♂374; and ④2nd ♂ M/Or-LB; since I think I also saw a ♂ Blk; I presume this to be ④♂376.

1200. 1 of the banded ♂♂ still hawking here. Otherwise quiet. Leaving.

1220. Watching at Revolution territory. Noone seen in arrival. There are some acorns remaining in their main granary.

1300. There is no sign of any wickers here at all! Leaving.

1340. Fairly close (up the hill and over towards the Revolution territory) to PO Hill #2 I saw 3 birds, one of whom was banded. Still no wing-streamers, though!

1400. Going home. There are indeed birds here, but the age of them all being streamered are (alas!) gone already.

1430. There are 2 birds by the 2nd crossing, in the live oaks on the hillside above it and over to the oaks on the side of the field across from it. One was a ♂, the other an ub ♀.

17 April Pam, doing a census up on School Hill, came across 2 Acorners at the far end near Red House (near beginning of census plot) One was a ♀ Red/? ? ?; the other wasn't seen well.

18 April 1545. Wandered over to Near Lambert. Several observations of interest there: ① the large Valley Oak in the ravine almost

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., Calif.

(18 April) directly between Lambert group and Near Lambert has fallen. This tree had no storage holes but did have 1-2 woodpecker-sized roost holes, and in any case was a venerable old lobata. ② there are quite a few steres remaining at Near Lambert, and ③ I flushed 3 birds, 1 or 2 out of one of the holes in the roost tree near the granary. I'll wait for another sighting before opening it, but it looks quite hopeful.

21 April Noone in the holes back at Near Lambert this afternoon. Still apparently early.

Late this afternoon I made the circuit down onto Blomquists', passing by Gazebo, the groups in the Windmill Valley, and up past the 2 groups on either side of the (now filled) pond. I found no good sign of any nests, but did see several birds at the Pond groups as well as at the group in the big Valley Oak on this side of the Windmill Valley. Things are still pretty slow this early.

22 April An exciting event - walking back from the Big Pond over on Blomquist's, I passed by the group where the 2 ♂♂ from Hay-Blom are, and heard the unmistakeable sounds of very young baby woodpeckers emanating from a hole that I'd flushed a bird out of yesterday evening (with no noises then). This means they finished laying eggs and began incubating at least by April 11th, and began laying eggs about 7-9 April! This is the earliest nest known to me - certainly the earliest nest to actually hatch that I've seen here.

7 Blomone

26 April 1130. Walked down Haystack passed Gazebo (flushing 2 birds but noone in a hole); Blomtwo (bird flushed from hole -

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation (and very near vicinity), Monterey Co., Calif.

(26 April) but no noises), and Blomone (noises still - see Blomone notes). Things may be picking up, I daresay.

27 April Nobody seen in holes at Near Lambert today.

3 May ♀♀339 and 343, originally banded in the Thanksgiving Revolution on Poison Oak Hill, are down at a revolution at Finch today. See Finch notes.

Over at Near Lambert and Bar-b-q I saw no birds in any of the holes.

5 May Walked back through Blomquist's, seeing noone in any likely holes at Gazebo or Blomtwo but hearing (I think) babies still at Blomone.

6 May ♀435 (banded at the revolution at Plaque in April) seen intruding at School Hill this morning.

7 May Walked back past Gazebo and Blomtwo, but found no birds in likely holes.

11 May Walked down Poison Oak Hill this afternoon after searching with John Davis for Cement Springs. I passed the 3 nests from last year plus a little extra, but found no sign of any nests or babies.

21 May 1500. At Gazebo there's a low hole about 2.5m off the ground where I'd been told a bird was flushing. So I came over, sure enough a bird flushed, I opened the hole, but it is merely being built and has no eggs or even really a decent bottom as yet.

28 May 1130. No sign of a nest at Near Lambert.

2 June Walked up the spine of Poison Oak Hill this morning, passing by all the groups and holes that I know of.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., Calif.

(2 June) Strikingly enough, I found not a single nest, nor any sign of one. Surely I must have missed something somewhere, as there are one or two groups that do even have acorns, but breeding activity must certainly be pretty negligible. In particular, I saw noone nor stores at P.O. Hill #2; there are no stores left at the Revolution territory, and no birds in any holes anywhere that I was able to find. I'm glad things aren't quite this bad down in the main study areas!

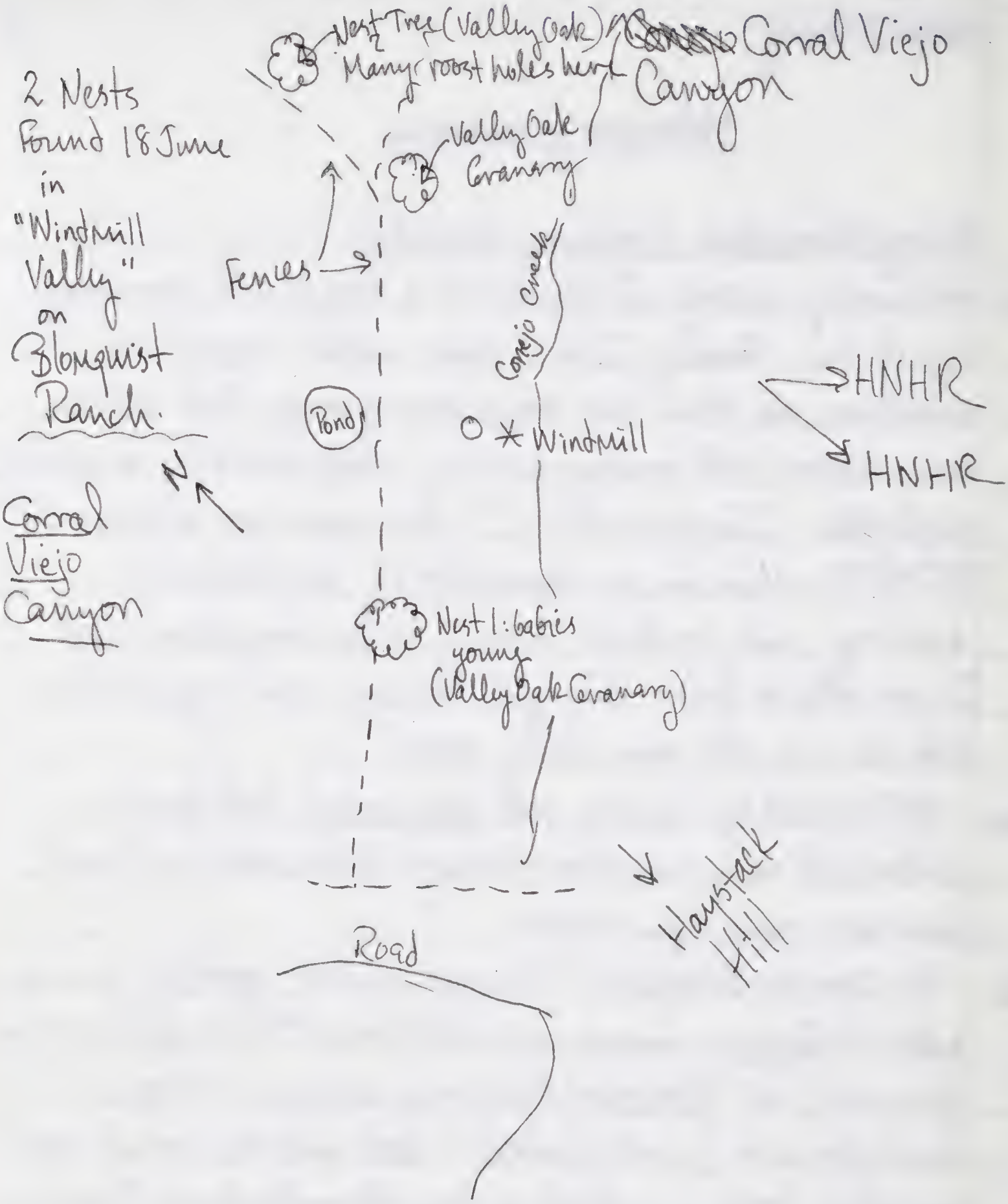
10 June 950. Walked by Bar-b-q and Near Lambert, but found no evidence of any nest, even though Near Lambert, at least, does have quite a few stores.

11 June 1745. Over on Blomquist's, I flushed one bird, possibly from a hole, at Gazebo, saw an unbanded ♀ + a 2nd bird (but no sign of a nest) at Blomtwo (this group appears to be out of stores for sure), and flushed 1 bird and still had at least one other looking out at me from the nesthole at Blomone.

18 June Walked over on Blomquist's this afternoon, finding nothing at Blomone, Blomtwo, or Gazebo. Over in the "Windmill Valley", however, I had better luck, finding 2 nests - one where the babies seemed to be quite young and another where I heard nothing when the adult flushed (thus they could be incubating still or may not have a nest at all). Both these groups had ample stores. A very rough map (to be improved on later) is on the back.

Actually probably lower part of Corral Viejo Canyon"

20 June 1645. No sign of birds or a nest at Near Lambert. Stores remain here, however. All very quiet.


2 Nests
Found 18 June
in
"Windmill
Valley"
on
Blomquist
Ranch.
Corral
Viejo
Canyon
Nest Tree (Valley Oak)
Many roost holes here
Corral Viejo
Canyon
Valley Oak
Granary
Fences
Cortejo Creek
Pond
Windmill
HNHR
HNHR
Nest 1: babies
young
(Valley Oak Granary)
Haystack
Hill
Road

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., Calif.

23 June Returned late this morning to the Blomquist Ranch at Corral Viejo Canyon (near the windmill [on USGS map]) and opened the 2 nests I found on 18 June. The first had 3 babies about 17-18 days old who were marked as measured as:

①	73.2 gm	[WL 43 mm]	Or-Brn
②	67.3	[44]	Blk-Wht
③	64.4	[38]	LP-Wht(n)

This was the first nest between the windmill and the main road on the map on p. 21.

The second nest had 5 young babies (3-4 days old), broken eggshells but no sign of any unhatched egg(s):

①	16.2 (10.5)	LB-Yl	(#470)
②	10.9 (10)	Wh-Blk	(#471)
③	11.6 (10.5)	DB-DP	(#472)
④	3.9	NB	
⑤	3.2	NB	

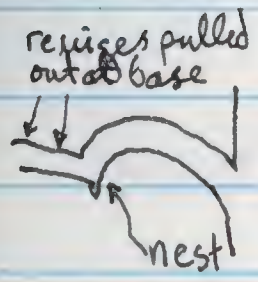
This was in Nest tree 2 as indicated on the back of p. 21. As noted on 18 June, both these groups have lots of stores remaining.

30 June 1100. Walked by Blomone (where I flushed ≥3 birds, inc. at least 1 of the banded babies) and Gazebo (where I found no birds, no sign of a nest, and there are indeed no stores) on my way to the first Corral Viejo Cyn nest (see 23 June). Opening it up, I found no sign of anything inside(!). On the limb (horizontal) directly behind it, however, I found at least 20 or more remiges emerging from their sheaths which had been plucked or otherwise taken from baby woodpeckers too young to fledge. I found no

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation and near vicinity, Monterey Co., Calif.

(30 June) remains in the nest at all and nothing on the ground below; there was also little on the limb to suggest what or how. Nonetheless, if ever there was a good suggestion of dirty work (= predation) this was it - but what? Not a snake - ~~their~~ they wouldn't leave any remains at all. Pam suggests a mammal (weasel?) as being a likely suspect to have pulled out primaries and various other feathers. It would have to have been a pretty sneaky one to get up to this nest, however, which is definitely on an overhang. Sigh. This group still has stores. Something strong did it - afterall these babies would have weighed 80 gm+ apiece.



Baby sounds are still coming from the 2nd nest here in the canyon - it's ok at least.

1 July Walked up Poison Oak Hill this morning with little success as far as nests go - I'm pretty sure at this point that nesting is a near washout up there this year. The POHill #1 group is out of stores, as is the Revolution Group. The 3rd group - where I banded 3 babies last year - does have stores, but I've found no obvious nest. I walked all the way up but hardly saw any woodpeckers at all; things are quiet all over. I did flush 1 bird with a wing-streamer between the Revolution territory and the big nest tree below it, but I'm not sure who it was.

7 July Pam saw j M/Or-Bm# -or/or- 437 (Blmone) today over on the opposite side of the pond from where he fledged.

15 July 800 - Returned to the 2nd nest in Corral Viejo Canyon

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Resenation, Monterey Co., Calif

(15 July) near the Windmill to band the babies, 3 of whom were alive and well (see earlier report on this nest ~~in~~ in 30 June notes). They were measured (data recorded on the capture records) and banded as #470, 471, and 472. I didn't see any adults, but there were plenty of stores remaining for sure.

5 November Wandered over by the Lambert groups, where things are clearly as bad as they are over on the Arnold. Both Bar-B-Q and the other group past it along the N ridge (with the large Valley Oak granary) have no discernable stores and are presumably defunkt. Only Near Lambert still lives, as they do have stores (perhaps on the order of 800 to 1000). Not very good no matter how you look at it.

16 November Over on Blomquist's things are generally fair-poor. Several of the trees over at Gazebo have been cut down, but they have some stores, as does Blomore and the Windmill Valley Groups. Noone looked in "good" shape, however - only uniformly marginal, at best.

29 November Walked over on Buckeye Hill this evening, passing by the Buckeye group (where things look alright) and then up over the top, where things look terrible I passed at least 3 empty granaries, and saw absolutely no sign of any woodpeckers during the entire excursion.

10 December Walked across S. ravine over on Lauberts. Of note was one good granary with lots of acorns across from Branca (approx.). Otherwise nothing of note. One group I watched in Fall 1976 is no longer there. I checked several birds but all were unbanded.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co. California

16 December Walked up Palo Escrito today with Pam and Ted Kaehler. Most of the granaries we passed were empty and there was virtually no sign of current AW activity until we got in the vicinity of the windmill (approximate elevation 3600'+) at which point granaries were thick and all seemed fairly well stocked with acorns. This remained the case all the way up to the top. This area was full of nice mature Valley Oaks, there are still no pines at all anywhere on the ridge. Other oaks were agrifolia, douglasii, and chrysolepis; there appeared to be no kelloggii. Thus the acorn crop appears to have been good at the higher elevations, but once again it was clear that below 3500' or so the crop was very nearly a complete washout.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo. Hastings Reservation

3 January A sample of 30 acorns taken (with great difficulty - those things are really wedged in here!) from the granary.

20 February 1100. Watching.

1125. A Scrub Jay is here in the granary eating an acorn which he's stolen.

1135. 1 bird finally appears: ① ♂ DB/Wh-LB # 252 and a 2nd is calling nearby.

1225. ② ♀ ad. Several birds are just down the hill a short ways in the Live Oaks, no doubt sapsucking.

1230. Leaving. Too slow.

Counted stores: 647.

12 March 1515. Returning the hide, I'm going to sit and watch for a spell.

1545. 2 ♂♂ and a ♀ over in sycamore by '77 nest, only ① ♀ Wh/Bl-Red # 369 identified. Now flying down to the live oak below the granary.

1550. ② ♂ LG-LP/LG # 370 to granary to get part of an acorn. ♀369 here now also eating an acorn. ③ ♀ ad here also. ④ ♂ LB/Wh-DP # 234.

1555. I briefly saw a ♂ sapsucking in the live oak below the granary.

1620. ⑤ ♂ M/DG # 319 and ⑥ ♂ DB-Or/DB-Or # 424. Several others here also sitting or EA.

1645. Leaving. No other returnees. Group definitely has stores.

5 April 1115. Counted stores: 232. Noone seen anywhere in the vicinity.

17 April 1000. 1 bird flushed from the granary, but nobody seen in any of the local holes. Nobody in Buckeye Hill holes either.

23 April 1700. Noone at all seen on the Red Hill side of things. Ditto Buckeye.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo — Hastings Reservation

29 April 1550. Walked by here briefly, seeing noone in the holes and also noting that a large limb off the granary with about ⅓ (or slightly more) of the storage space of this group (~500-600 holes) has fallen.

5 May 1630. Noone seen here in/out of holes. Also some bad news re stores: between usage and the lost limb, they are now plumb out of them: ☹.

12 May 1630. Flushed 2 birds over on the side of Buckeye near the holes there, but noone seen in any holes on either side of the canyon.

22 May 1610. One bird kant-ing over here, but otherwise noone seen and noone in any holes.

30 May 605. Watching.

620. 2 birds here for a stretch; disappeared over in the sycamores.

650. ① ♀ won, #369 here preening. ↳ one probably ♂ M/#319.

715. ub ♀ intruder displaced by ② ♀ ub.

720. ③ ♂ DB/Yel-LB #252 landing with a huge (~28-30mm) black beetle of some sort. ④ ♂ Blue-Or/B-Or #424.

806. ♀ub, ♂424, and ⑤ ♂ LB/Wh-DP # 234 here.

835. ♂234 here again. Birds hawking-catching big black beetles.

836. Intruder: ♀ Red/Dk-Red #? [434?]. ♀369 here again.

838. ! Intruder ♂WLW DB-Yel(n)/Yel #415 from Y! Displaced immediately.

840. Now also ♀YLW #434 from Y. Wow! ♂234, 252 here 5th birds preening in granary (♂234, 252, 424, ♀ub, ♀369) also a Mourning Dove! 6th bird here also. (Maybe an intruder; it + 2 others just left).

850. Yes: ⑥ ♂ LG-R/LG #370. ! Also ⑦ ♀ Blk/M-Red/Yel #368 for sure over in the Sycamores! I may get everybody yet!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo — Hastings Reservation

(30 May) 905. Leaving. Missed ♂319 (though I may have seen him at the beginning) but a successful watch for sure! No good sign of a nest yet, but I'll check the holes here before departing.

915. Noone in holes on this side.

9 June 650. Noone in any holes on either side of the gulch.

17 June 1700. Noone seen in/out of holes on either side.

29 June 1200. " " " " " " " "

1 September 935. Nothing seen over at Chongo except for one or two distant birds hawking over on Buckeye Hill.

4 October 1815. Possible bad news for this group - walking over at dusk I saw no stores, nor did I hear or see anyone roost here.

13 October Ron watched here for about an hour, seeing no sign of any birds. This group still has no stores, and may have bit the dust, at least for the winter.

30 November Though the last time I actually observed anybody here was 30 May, I will surmise that the group remained intact until 1 September, and was certainly gone by 4 October; ∴ all birds (except ♂319, see below)

Abandoned about [Not seen again, so far] 17 Sept. ± 1 month.

This includes ♂234, ♂424, ♀368, ♀369, ♂370, and ♀ub.

♂319 was last seen on 12 March, and I will assume he was gone by the good watch on 30 May →

Disap. about 21 April ± 1 month.

Presently this territory is empty.

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Buckeye — Hastings Reservation

3 January — These birds have plenty of acorns in storage at the moment. The tree is also intact from the storm.

5 April — 1150. These birds have lots of stores left. While here, an unbanded ♀ flew to the tree, possibly originally intending to go to a hole low in the tree (with luck, they'll nest there and not in that other hole of ~~there~~ theirs).

1155. Unb. ♂ came by. This tree did lose part of a dead limb this winter, taking 500 holes or so and several hundred acorns (all of which someone's eaten by now).

17 April — 1030. Nobody in any of the known holes here.

23 April — 1735. ♀ in the granary, but nobody in any holes.

12 May — 1600. Flushed 2 birds from the tree when arriving plus a third from a very low, easy hole!! Yea! I will need a short ladder, but otherwise it should be a snap. No sounds coming from it as yet.

14 May — 1600. Opened nest: 4 eggs, incubated (opaque) and dirty:

① 25.3 × 20.9 ③ 25.8 × 21.3

② 26.1 × 21.3 ④ 25.1 × 20.4

These birds definitely to have stores remaining.

24 May — ~~NB~~. 1730. Came by to check the nest, which is empty with no trace of any babies or shells inside! Birds still have stores remaining, so maybe they'll try again. Oh well.

9 June — 655. 1 bird flushed, possibly from the '75-76 nest hole. Noone in any other holes. Still stores left.

17 June — 1715. ♂ in '75-76 nest hole - unfortunately it is no doubt a nest. I flushed him (with much difficulty) but was only possibly able to hear baby noises - is either late incubation or just hatched.

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Buckeye — Hastings Reservation

29 June 1210. Definite squeaky noises coming from nest - should be done soon if I'm foolish enough to do it at all.

2 July 700. Once again, against my saner judgement, I went up and got the babies, of whom there were 3:

① 468	② 469	③
80.4 (84)	81.5 (82)	81.9 (72)

The first 2 were banded and returned. The 3rd (the youngest) was (blush, blush) absconded with and taken home to Red House, where I intend to raise him/her.

13 October 1900. Somehow, somewhere these birds are getting acorns, and they do have quite a few stores (perhaps ~1000). The tree is far from nearing full, however.

29 November 1600. No birds seen here, but they are still in relatively good shape as far as stores go, with possibly 2000 or so.

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Plaque — Hastings Reservation

3 February — 1625. ♀157 barrit-ing in Plaque. ♂BLW #361 sitting in 2° tree.

4 February — Collected a sample of 26 acorns out of Plaque.

17 February — 1000. ♂ Orl WN #361 sitting on side of telephone pole.

19 February — 1325. Both birds on the telephone pole.

1600. Counted stores: Plaque: 510; Tel Pole: 30 } 540

10 March — ♀157 seen in Plaque.

11 March — ♂361 seen in the telephone pole.

14 March — ♀157 in 2° tree.

23 March — ♀157 working on a hole in the telephone pole for awhile.

24 March — Counted stores: Plaque: 75; Tel Pole & Barn: 58 } 133

31 March — ♀157 trying to dissuade a Crow standing on the vertical face of the telephone pole ~~pitpher~~ pilfering acorns.

2 April — 700. ♀157 on telephone pole again.

8 April — Both birds in the top of Plaque this afternoon - the ♂ with a nice acorn in his bill.

17 April — 950. ♀157 atop Plaque. None seen in any holes.

19 April — 1200. Counted stores: Plaque 78; Other: 12 } 90.

22 April — ♀157 seen atop Plaque; ♂ atop 2° tree.

24 April — 900. Steve mentioned that there was an intruder here at about 800 that was being chased; walking out and looking it was clear that there were now at least 4 intruders, and that action was going up fast here. I quick put up the net in Plaque and then went up on the hill to watch at 910.

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Plaque — Hastings Reservation

(24 April) 910-920. Both ♂361 and ♀157 are here chasing away at the intruders, more of whom seem to be being attracted by the now loud Carricking, occasional drumming, and high level of activity. ♀ Or/LB/M/Red #191 up in Plaque; also ♂ Red/DP #402 here. ♀ub seen being chased by both residents. Hard to see intruders as they are being kept moving. At 920 I catch an ub ♀ in the net, now ♀435.

945. ♀ released and now I'm back. All quiet briefly, but there are still birds around.

953. Residents atop Plaque still defending; only 2-4 intruders now down from a high of 6-8. Weather looking threatening.

955. In Plaque: ♀ Or-DB/M ? Wind coming up.

1000. ♂ub. ♀191 still here, plus another banded ♀.

1006. ♀ub. 2 birds just flew off to the Blue Oak on the hill; ♂ub still atop Plaque.

1012. Still quieting. ♂361 and ♀157 together and almost alone atop Plaque.

1020. Things seem pretty much about over - ♂361/♀157 sitting quietly atop Plaque and noone else in sight.

1025. ♀157 flew up to the Blue Oak, displacing a bird who took off above the lower barn down the Valley to parts unknown.

1030. Leaving. All ended remarkably quickly.

1100. Things aren't entirely over. There is at least an unbanded ♂ still here causing mischief. Also I caught ♂361 in the net - he was quickly measured and released.

26 April 1500. Bird in the top hole in the telephone pole.

1715. Noone in the hole now.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque — Hastings Reservation

27 April — 1540. ♂361 atop Plaque

1 May — Steve Dobson gave me the wing of ♂22 complete with the Orange wing streamer still intact which he'd found below the 2° tree here. The bird had clearly been dead some time. Thus I am at least able to change the fate of this bird to "Died about" from "Disappeared."

3 May — Found a roost hole (at least) in the Blue Oak by the labs (the '75-76 nest tree) this evening.

5 May — 1600. Counted stores: Plaque: 60, Other: 8 } 68

Nobody seen in any holes anywhere.

7 May — 1415. ♂361 and ♀157 both in Plaque trying to chase out crows.

10 May — ♀157 seen on the telephone pole.

19 May — ♀ (at least) roosting in the telephone pole.

~~30~~ 30 May — 1700. After seeing a bird twice in ~~the~~ one of the holes in the 2° tree which I opened last year, I went up and checked it, finding 5 eggs!

1 June — 1700. Bird flushed from hole in confirming 5 eggs.

5 June — Pam saw the birds attending the nest this afternoon.

6 June — ♀157 seen atop Plaque tree this evening.

9 June — 630. Bird in hole.

12 June — 930. With some calling heard here, I came over to check the nest; not only was no bird in it but there were feathers strewn at the hole and along the limb up from it. Going up, I found abundant evidence of a bird having been eaten here: mandibles, remiges, a rectrix, and numerous body feathers. Unfortunately, no identifying feature (go to p.5)

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Plaque Nest Record
30 May 1700.

Hastings Reservation
Nest opened: 5 eggs:
① 25.1 × 18.3
② 23.7 × 18.7
③ 25.3 × 19.1
④ 24.5 × 18.3
⑤ 23.9 × 19.3

1 June 1700
5 eggs.

12 June 1000
Nest failed - see notes (eggs had hatched; possible predation)

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Plaque — Hastings Reservation

(12 June) however - but it was clear that one ~~of~~ or the other of the birds here (my guess is the ♂) met his/her end here within the last day or two. Inside the nest were 2 remiges (at the hole entrance) but otherwise there were no remains inside the hole itself. Several hatched eggshells were in the hole, but there was no sign of any babies, though they obviously had hatched.

Meanwhile, some half-hearted garricking confirms that ~~a~~ an opening exists here. I checked stores, finding 16 good-looking acorns in the barn and Plaque tree - very little but apparently something.

1000. Now watching.

1015. Wahoo! ① ♀RRRW #157 in Plaque tree! I would say that ♂361 can be purged (found dead killed) immediately (11 June).

1018. ♀157 garricking in a rather subdued fashion - softly every several minutes.

1020. Nobody else here at the moment. ~~This is~~ Oops - ♀ just flew off and greeted a bird in the Blue Oak up toward MacRoberts. There is a ♂ in the top of the tree there. No wingstreamer.

1025. Things should pick up here soon. Leaving for now.

1130. There are at least 2-3 birds here now; only occassional garricks or excitement, however.

15 June 1930. ♀157 seen in Plaque just before roosting all by herself and looking quite alone - don't think anyone else has moved in here yet.

19 June 1015. ♀157 in Plaque; a 2nd bird squawking in top of tree. I occassionally get a whiff of a 2nd bird when I pass by here, but nothing definite yet for sure.

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Plaque — Hastings Reservation

29 June 1200. ♀157 seen in Plaque. Earlier a 2nd bird had been here, but I think it was a ♀. Potential newcomers continue to wander through here on occassion, but I don't think she's come up with a new mate yet.

2 July 1635. Watching.

1700. Nobody. ♀ is no doubt here somewhere, but I sure doubt that she's got a new ♂ yet.

6 July 1430. ♂ub sitting at the roost hole in the telephone pole. No immediate sign of the ♀, but something may be up.

13 July 1410. ub baby squeaking in the Plaque tree; also at least 2 other birds here or in the live oak above the bunkhouse. No big activity here, however.

1510. ♀157 seen here along with an ub baby and an adult ♂ (not literally - all just seen in 2° tree).

1525. The adult ♂ is unbanded also, I fear. He and the ♀ are looking at each other quite suspiciously in the Plaque tree at the moment.

14 July As expected, this group now has ♀ stores.

24 July 1045. ♀157 plus an ub ♂ sitting together atop Plaque. Looks as if she has finally picked up a new mate

At dusk tonight I saw ♀157 karrit-cut for several minutes, then join a 2nd bird in the 2° tree. Shortly thereafter the 2nd bird flew off up to(ward) the Hastings Cabin, while ♀157 roosted (alone?) in her old natal tree by the lab.

25 July I watched roosting here again this evening. ♀157 came, karrit-cutted for several minutes on the limb above the nest hole, then flew around to the hole but was stopped by a emerging Downy

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Plaque Hastings Reservation

(25 July) Woodpecker, who had thought the hole looked pretty good also. The Downy left, and after a couple more minutes ♀157 went in and roosted. There was no sign, really, of the 2nd bird, making me question his commitment to the group here as yet. Perhaps he still returns to roost at his home territory for now, wherever that may be.

27 July 1600. Once again I here the squeaky noises of a baby around here, as well as the occassional greeting of 2 adults. It's still not clear what's up, but the best possibility is still perhaps that an interested ♂ comes over here followed by a baby from his home group, wherever it may be.

1 August Still a baby here - this is at least the 3rd or 4th day in a row he's been hanging around here.

4 August 715. A baby following an ub ♂ were down in the large Live Oak by the main bridge this morning.

5 August ♀157 seen today along with a baby once again following an adult around. I set up & net in Plaque, but no luck.

28 August 1800. ♂ub probing in 2° tree. At least a 2nd bird here also.

1805. ♀ LB-WR/Red #157 atop Plaque with a giant green Valley Oak acorn.

~~2000~~ 1900. 2 birds roosted together in the telephone pole this evening.

31 August 530. A successful ambush at the telephone pole netted 2 out of 3 birds: an ub ♂ & ub juvenile (presumably missing ♀157. No doubt these are the birds that have been hanging out here during the last month+ (see below). This is, however, only my second "confirmed" instance of a juvenile moving prior to its first spring. In any case, the birds were banded as

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Plague — Hastings Reservation

(31 August) #473 and #474 and released. The juvenile, by the way, looked sort of dark on the front of his crown but had no sign of molt yet.

Add: Unbanded adult ♂ and 1st yr birds, moved to Plague.

No definite sign of a new ♂ was seen here following the demise of ♂361 on or about 11 June until about 13 July, at which time both an ub ♂ and an ub juv. began to be seen regularly. Though ♀157 was roosting alone as late as 25 July, I would put their immigration somewhat about that time:

Moved to Plague: 19 July (±2 weeks)

4 September ♀RR #157 seen here today.

5 September 1600. A considerable amount of harrit-cutting here proved to be the 3 birds trying to defend the 2° tree (which is loaded with nice green acorns) from a myriad of competitors inc. at least several ground squirrels, a Crow, a Band-tailed Pigeon, and more.

11 September 745. Lots of chasing here and fighting over acorns - both inter- and intra-specific. Probably 2-4 intruders here trying to steal acorns as well as numerous scrub jays. So far I haven't been able to see any of the intruders. I did identify ①♀RR #157 and ②♂LG/M #473, however. Most of the activity is along the row of trees by the Upper Barn with a little spilling over to the 2° tree.

Ron saw j474 here later today along with several intruders here.

12 September 1400. 2 newly stored acorns are in the Plague tree.

13 September 745. ♀157 in 2° tree; all quiet at the moment.

Ron saw all 3 birds here this afternoon (no intruders).

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Plague — Hastings Reservation

21 September ♀157 seen up here this afternoon along with several ground squirrels in tree 2°, at least one of which was way out at the tips of the branches a good 35' up pulling off acorns and apparently just letting them drop to the ground. The birds are upset, but this beast seems to be unflusterable.

22 September 1125. j Or/Or Or-DB/M #474 in 2° tree, once again along with a ground squirrel way out at the edge foraging for acorns.

25 September 1035. ①♂ Le/M #473 and ②♀157 here storing, etc.

27 September Watched here most of the day from the labs where I spent most of my time writing. Once again, as occurred in the fall of 1976 here, the Scrub Jays have ~~gang~~ ganged up on the 2° tree and are making trips in at an incredible rate (not as high as 2 yrs ago - probably 150-200/hr.) The birds are rather upset about it all and spent most of their time today attempting to keep them out - To a little avail, however, since there were easily 10 jays moving around the tree at any one time. Later in the afternoon I did see some storing (their granary is beginning to fill up) as they slowly gave up the hopeless task of defense. Also today I noticed that all 3 holes in the telephone pole - 2 which merely go in about 4 inches but also the top roost hole - are apparently stuffed full of acorns (the top roost hole is easily 8" deep!). Something to be checked out first hand when possible.

8 October ♀157 very conspicuous; still lots of storing here.

13 October Storing has slowed down; ♀157 still here.

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Plaque — Hastings Reservation

15 October 1535. Watching ♀157 seen earlier working stores.
1545. Nobody here except the ♀ at the moment. Leaving.

16 October 900. ♀157 here. Where, pray tell, ~~are~~ are the ♂♂?
945. 2nd bird seen here. I bet the baby is gone already
1045. ♂ M #473 finally seen. No sign of the baby.

18 October Counted stores 715 in Plaque
0 in 20 tree
? in telephone pole (possibly up to 100
est (50) in the roost hole but none stored there;
765 Total.

Things are quiet out there today.

26 October Both ♀157 and ♂ M #473 seen storing here today.

17 November 1500. ♂ LG/Lght #473 in Plaque - but I haven't noticed ♀157 for sometime now. Hope she's still here.

27 November 1000. ♂ LG/Wht #473 here (are the legs switched on this bird?)

30 November Purge: j474. This bird, banded on 31 August after moving here with ♂473, was last seen on 22 September and was gone by 16 October (probably returning from whence s/he came) → Dis. about 4 October ± 2 wks

♀157. This poor dear was last seen on 26 October and was gone by 17 November (sigh). → Dis. abt 6 Nov. ± 1 wk.

Presently this group is a singleton with only ♂473 here, even though he does have a (relatively) large number of stores.

10 December Ron saw ♂473 here today.

15 December ♂473 here today by the creek and in the sycamores.

30 December Counted stores: 421 (all in Plaque). Took a sample of 25 acorns (and replaced them with others).

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MacRoberts Hastings Reservation

8 February There are at least some acorns left in the fallen tree here at a height where woodpeckers could easily be getting at them. I saw no birds around otherwise, but very possibly they are still here somewhere.

24 February 940. Rather to my surprise, an ub ♂ is on the fallen granary working stores.

950. The ♂ is gone and I don't see anyone around now, but apparently a (the?) group is still intact here.

As it happens, I counted all of 94 acorns still in the granary up off the ground - not a lot, but enough to support a pair for a while longer, at least.

14 March 1215. Watching. No sign of anybody.

1245. Some calls and a ♂ flycatching not far away

1253. The ♂ just left. He appeared not to be banded, and very well may be "the" ub ♂ here.

1315. No sign of more birds. The granary, however, still has 56 acorns! No doubt they are still hanging on here!

24 March 1600. A stroll up here again produced an unbanded ♂ sitting near the fallen granary.

Once again, there are still some stores here.

31 March 1430. Nobody seen in passing here, though stores still do remain.

5 April 1800. 2 birds flushed from near here and watched for several minutes as they made a fuss over me: ♂ ub and a ♀, who unfortunately still eluded identification. They do seem to belong here, at least.

8 April 1700. Nobody seen here in passing.

13 April 1230. Still a few acorns stored here. A bird flushed from near here is ♀ LP(orOr)/Lavern ? FM/Lavern ? Closest I can get offhand is ♀316 —

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MacRoberts Hastings Reservation

(13 April) and in fact closer examination of the banding records confirms that dear old ♀316 is by far the likliest candidate (this is the bird banded in a revolution at Plague in 1976 and then later caught up at the Thanksgiving revolution on Poison Oak Hill!) I daresay I do hope she's living here! (If so, I'll obviously have to reorganize the group somewhat!).

19 April 1200. Counted 30 acorns still visible here. Better than a lot of groups by this time! Also heard 1 bird nearby.

21 April 1650. No sign of anyone back here this time around.

22 April 1000. Watching.

1015. 2 birds on the granary briefly - flushed when I looked.

1018. 2 birds again, plus a 3rd possibly chased. ♀ here sapsucking next to granary - the same one as seen 13 April: ♀ Or/LBlue ♂ M/

(These bands seen well).

1030. There is definitely a group here! Next time I bring the hide. There are also calls coming from well up Red Hill as if something's going on up there are well.

1150. Back again in the hide.

1205. 2 birds here briefly and then gone.

1300. This doesn't seem to be the time to check them out. Leaving.

So far, ♀316 still seems like the likeliest choice for the ♀ here, but there are still one or two other (rather less probable) possibilities.

23 April 1035. Watching. At least 1 bird here.

1050. Somebody just cackled nearby, but I still don't see anyone.

1110. Finally had both birds here long enough to get some

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(23 April) decent looks at them. First, there do seem to be only 2, 1 ♂ ub and the other ♀ M/Red Or/LBlue still most likely ♀316. Both are here hawking, greeting each other, drinking out of tree cavities, and generally at home.

1115. Somebody (possibly ♀DBLW#414-4) just got displaced here.

1135. After following the ♀ as best I could for 20 minutes and seeing her left leg quite well I've decided I'm wrong: she's definitely not ♀316. This bird is ♀M/Red LP/LB-ish #191 from School Hill!

1150. The ♀ just picked some sort of large (≈30mm) dark beetle out of the air at at least 100ft! Meanwhile, I'm quite convinced now that she is ♀191 - her bands fit satisfactorily and the move makes sense. Leaving.

24 April Purge: ♀431. Last seen here 27 November 1977, but I will assume she was around until ♀191 moved down, about 6 March 1978. In fact, no ♀♀ at all were seen here between 27 November and 5 April, and possibly there was a time when none was here. But I don't have good evidence for that being the case. Disappeared abt. 6 March ± 1 month.

Add: ♀191. Moved here as adult 6 March 1978.

I will assume, in lack of other evidence, that the unbanded ♂ here is the same one as here all along.

6 May 1710. No birds here and no stores (I did see one old peanut shell, however - clearly somebody here had been raiding down at the Pump!).

26 May 1500. Noone seen here (or at '75 nest tree) in passing.

11 June 1400. Flushed a ♂ (possibly banded) from ~~near~~ near here who eventually

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(11 June) flew way off to (at least) the side of Watertank Hill. Nothing else here, however.

18 June 1720. A bird seen flying over around here from Blomquist's.

19 June 945. Sat back here for 15 minutes, watching ♀Or/Wh #191 ♂Fu/Or hawking in the area. The group lives.

29 August 1510. Nobody seen here in passing.

8 October 1615. Not unexpectedly, there are no stores here, no sign of any birds, and, I fear, the group is clearly defunct. My guess is that there aren't more than 300-400 usable holes here anymore.

3 November No sign of anything here.

30 November Purge: ♂ub, ♀191. I unfortunately do not have a good idea of what happened here. ♀191 was last seen on 19 June (surprisingly), thus I presume that the group was intact through the spring and early summer. My guess, however, is that they abandoned early - in August - rather than late. Thus, I will have both of them abandon on 15 Aug ± 1 month.

Presently this territory is empty (and is likely to remain so).

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Y Hastings Reservation

3 February 1205. Watching. ①♂YRW #364 by barn. ②♀DBLW #414 on knoll. ③♂RRLW #322 sapsucking in Blue Oak below knoll.

1223. A Sharpie appearing sent both ♀414 and ♂322 into a hole up on the knoll.

1225. ④♂WhLW #415 up on knoll.

1229. An unbanded ♀ is up on the knoll by herself, not looking especially at ease. Now in '75 nest tree examining a hole.

1236. ♀ub still up on knoll alone. No others near here at the moment.

1242. The ⑤ub ♀ is now eating an acorn in front of the barn near (and unmolested by) ♂322, ♂364, ♀414, ♂415. Looks like ♀425 has ~~bee~~ bit the dust and been replaced already.

1252. The new ♀ is here again with the others.

1305. Leaving. No sign of ♂261 either. The group does have acorns, however. And another ambush will have to be made.

8 February 1030. ♂322, ♂364, and ♂415 seen in passing. Also ♀414. Looks pretty clear that ♂261 is gone also.

19 February 1730. After setting up for an ambush I watched at dusk, but only ♂322, ♂364, and ♀414 roosted here (in the '77 nest hole)!

20 February Tonight only ♂♂322 and 364 roosted in the hole.

23 February Again only ♂♂322 and 364 roosted together in the '77 nest hole.

24 February 1000. Seen together near the knoll: ①♂322, ②♀ub, ③♂415, plus 2 others (1♂, 1♀); among other things eating buds from a Valley Oak here. ♂♀DB #414 seen at the Y later on.

Purge: ♂261. Last seen 27 Nov. 1977, gone by 3 Feb. 78 → Disappeared about 31 Dec. 1977 ± 1 Month.

♀425 Same as above → Disappeared abt. 31 Dec. 1977 ± 1 Month.

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Hastings Reservation

(24 February) Add: ♀ub [625]. Moved here about 31 Dec. 1977 (Age unknown)

13 March At least 2 birds roosted in the '77 nest hole tonight inc ♂322, but I failed at getting a good count:

14 March ♀414 seen up on the knoll in passing.

15 March ♂415 seen in front of the barn.

1840. ♂♂322 and 364 are the only 2 birds roosting in the '77 nest hole this evening. Where's everyone else going?

25 March 1540. ♂322, ♀414, and ♀ub down in the granary at Pump.

31 March 1440. ♂322, ♀414, ♂415, and ♀ub all seen on the knoll fooling around in the '75 nest tree.

7 April Nobody roosted in the '77 nest hole or anywhere else that I could see this evening!

8 April Opened up the nest hole - it has about ½" of water in its bottom! Guess they won't be nesting there this year.

9 April 745. Saw ♂415 (White) while checking out the new hole in the '75 nest tree.

12 April 900. ♂415 seen in passing the Lower Barn.

16 April 1900. I was here at dusk this evening, but neither saw nor heard anybody roosting anywhere!

19 April 1220. ①♂WhLW#415 flushed from the '75 nest tree. Watching.

1230. ♂415 now hawk-ing alone atop locusts in front of barn. Others are nowhere to be seen.

1237. ♂415, poking around in the locust, just pulled out a whole acorn - this group does still have stores.

1240. ②♀ub arrives and greets ♂415.

1255. ♂415 back in front of the barn alone. Others definitely making

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(19 April) themselves scarce.

1310. ♂415 flew off to the knoll. ♀ub now back.

1315. Leaving. This group is not to be had today.

21 April 1710. Watching. ♀ in front of barn sitting. (no WS - probably ♀ub).

1713. ♂ with #415 in front of barn. Where is everybody else?

1730. ♂♂ 322, 364 and ♀414 have inexplicably disappeared for at least the time being. I wonder what's up?

1855. Finally found at least 2 of these birds roosting in the dead overhang just above the creek in the big sycamore. Noone could be found in any other holes.

22 April 1425. And again ♀ub and ♂415 are the only 2 birds here, sitting in front of the barn.

24 April 500. An ambush at the hole in the sycamore produced, as hoped, ♂415 and ♀ub, now ♀yel, LW #434. Both were processed and released at 545 before any mischief could begin down on their territory.

27 April 1720. ♂415 and ♀434 in the locusts in front of the barn. I still don't know what's up, but the other 3 birds are definitely not here.

29 April 1620. ♂415 seen down here this afternoon.

1 May 1000. ♂415 and ♀434 together in locusts in front of barn.

5 May 1520. ♂415 seen working on the hole below the '75 nest hole - it's now almost to the point that only his tail sticks out when he dips inside.

6 May 830. ♂415 plus one other bird (the ♀, I believe) in front of the barn.

1130. ♀LG #434 flushed from barn area.

9 May ♂415 seen sitting in front of the barn.

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11 May Purge: ♂364. Last seen roosting on 15 March. Gone, along with the others, by 19 April. → Disappeared about 31 March ± 1 week.
♂322, ♀414. Last seen on the knoll on 31 March. Gone by 19 April → Disappeared about 10 April ± 1 week.
I have no good explanation for what got these 3 birds, but something must have. Their simultaneous disappearances are a mystery indeed.

17 May 815. ♂WhR#415 flew by me as I checked the holes up on the knoll.

18 May 1418. ♂415 seen in the locust eating and restoring an acorn. They do have stores - where's their nest?

20 May 1115. The minor revolution activity that was by Pump this morning has now moved over here, with at least 1 bird Garricking up on the knoll, chasing, and 7-8 birds flitting around: ① ♀ M/Or-Wh #435 by the knoll with one other bird; ② ♀ YLW #434 here in sycamore roost tree - 2-3 others there also(!) inc. ③ ♀ ub ④ ♂ Y-DG/Or #297(1500). ⑤ ♂ Gr/DP #402(S. Hill) in tel. pole. My goodness. Drumming now up on the knoll. Lots of activity between the sycamore and the barn. Leaving for now.

1350. Still 4-6 birds here - lots of action. ♀434 seen, also ♂297. ♀ub drumming on the old fallen granary on the knoll. Someone Garricking at the Pump.

1400. ♀434, ♂402, and ♀ub together in '75 nest tree. Now 5(!) birds here. ♂WhLW#415 in locusts in front of barn. But others not chasing each other(?)

21 May No activity here the 2 or 3 times I passed by!

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Y Hastings Reservation

22 May 1255. Both ♂415 and ♀434 seen here in passing (and noone else offhand). All quiet.

26 May 1505. ♀ub in the '75 nest tree (!?)

27 May 855. 3 birds together in front of barn (!?)

28 May 1915. Walked down here finding ① ♀ YRLW#434 right in the trees at the Y ① ♂WhRW#415 sitting in front of the barn and ♀ub in the Y sycamore acting a little out of place. Not sure what's up, but the extras may merely be intruders after all, as both the residents are still here.

30 May ♂415 and ♀434 both seen intruding at Chongo. See Chongo notes.

1040. Both ♂415 and ♀434 now here in front of the barn.

4 June 1015. 3 birds here, including at least 1 unbanded ♀; none had obvious wingstreamers.

6 June Pam saw both wingstreamered birds here this morning as well as an unbanded ♀, who was apparently friendly with ♀434.

11 June 1405. Watching. ♀ub here; sitting in front of barn and looking a little nervous.

1420. She looks like it, at least at the moment. The banded pair are probably out exploring again. My guess is that they must be out of stores here, and that that's why the residents are off wandering and the home territory is not being besieged by fortune-hunters. ♀ub still sitting here; looks rather at ease now...

Pam found a D. Blue wingstreamer, intact (still with the loop) down between the knoll and the fenceline today - a clue, perhaps, to the disappearence of ♀414 (though I don't know what it means yet).

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Y Hastings Reservation

14 June 1145. ♂415 seen in the locusts in front of the barn chasing an Oriole.

15 June 1115. ♂415 at the new hole in the '75 nest tree.
1635. ♂415 and a ♀ (unbanded no wingstreamer) sitting in front of the barn quietly.

18 June ♂415 seen around here twice today along with 1-2 other birds, neither of whom seemed to have wingstreamers.

19 June 900. ♀434 (yLW) down ½ way toward Pump. Watching.
A 2nd ♀ by the barn. ♀434 looked pretty furtive (only behavior and was seen).
905. ♂wRLW #415 by barn now.
913. Voilà: ♀434 just joined ♂415 in front of barn.
925. Well, both banded birds are still here (♂415 regularly, ♀434 relatively scarce); (the) u6 ♀ apparently still hanging around but I was unable to get a good fix on her this time. No sign of them eating any stores. Things rather quiet, all in all.

2 July 900. I was standing at the ♀ when I looked over toward the knoll and saw a Cooper Hawk flying along. Soon I realized he was chasing after an A.W., who was no more than 40 ft ahead of him, flying along without the usual woodpecker lilt. The two birds circled around, once or twice with the woodpecker dropping suddenly and changing directions entirely, for over a minute, heading up School Hill. Eventually both disappeared from view for 20 seconds or so well up the Hill, probably near the nest tree. Then (a) the woodpecker reappeared, calling (krrr-krrr) [the first calls I'd heard] and heading in the direction of Red House. I lost him soon afterwards. The whole time the hawk was no more than 50-60 ft behind him on his tail, and occassionally seemed nearly to nail him, coming within several feet. The woodpecker stayed up in the air, however, until he disappeared

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(2 July) on top of School Hill. It was quite a chase, and I daresay I'm not entirely convinced the hawk didn't win.

1615. Watching. ♀(no ws) sitting above '75 nest hole. ① ♀ub. Just flew to sap area and back (greeting w/ the bird(s) in sap tree).

1623. ② ♀ YLW #434 in sap tree preening. ♀ub still sitting.

1628. ③ ♂ WLW #415 sitting in sap tree also. Looks like the 3rd bird is here for good (and should be caught soon!)

1630. Leaving. Pretty quiet.

9 July 2000. Was unable to find anybody roosting anywhere here this evening.

15 July 930. ♂415 seen in front of the barn in passing.

24 July 1830. ♀434 seen near the large sycamore roost tree.

27 July ♂415 seen late this morning sitting in the Valley Oak granary here.

29 August 1515. ♂ Yel/ #415 in front of the barn with a big green acorn.

4 September 1400. ♂ WhLW #415 sitting in front of barn.

30 September Saw ♂415 and ♀ Or-LBlue/Or #434 here storing acorns in front of the barn. Go to it, kids!

29 October Last night Pam reported having found remains of an AW inside the barn here. She brought feathers back, and indeed they comprised most of the left remiges of some poor sweetheart. Checking myself today, I found most of the rectrices inside the barn also and eventually found all the right remiges (except for 1 found by Pam inside the barn) on the outside of the barn about 4 feet towards the Y on the side by Red House. My search for a body &/or wing-streamer failed, however. Once again I'm stumped - Pam figured it was the Barn Owl (who had been in the barn last week) but how did the right wing get outside? The owl was not there

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(29 October) y today, unfortunately, and I found no fresh pellets. In any case, while I was searching some scirmishing among 3-4 took place in the locusts, so it should be relatively easy to reconstruct the loss once I get a chance to watch here.

3 November Watched here for a few minutes, but only found one bird sitting off a ways. I also climbed up into the locust to look for acorns, and was only able to find a very few (but there were some).

5 November 945. The ♂ sitting up on the knoll is ♂M, now Not #415!

19 November 1345. No sign of anyone here. My guess is that this group no longer exists - I've seen occasional birds here but no sign of steady occupancy since September (when I last saw the 2 wing-streamered birds).

26 November ♂476 (from 1800) seen here today by Ron Mumme. No sign of either of the 2 former residents, however.

30 November Purge: ♂415, ♀434. Both birds were last seen storing acorns (!) on 30 September. Things went downhill from there, however, and clearly both were gone (1 possibly predated) by 29 October → ~~Abandoned about autumn [illegible] going to have these 2 disappear (rather~~ → Abandoned about 14 October ± 2 wks.

Presently some birds are hanging out here on occasion but the territory is empty (for the first time in history).

2 December ~~[illegible]~~ Today while walking along the old county road across from John's house Pam spotted (in the center of the road) what turned out to be an intact yellow wingstreamer with (faded) RR circle - the remains, apparently,

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(2 December) ♀ of ♀434. Searching around, I found only 2 intact primaries (from the left wing) and no further remains. Thus, the feathers found in the barn at 4 on 29 Oct. were not this bird, as all the relevant 1° of that individual were already accounted for. Thus, the former bird remains a mystery. The fate of ♀434 ~~(and also ♂415)~~ can be changed, however, to "Found dead, died about [14 Oct. 1978]"; the fate of ♂415 will stand for the time being.

13 December 1400. A bird is sitting here in front of the barn.

15 December 1315. Watching. Noone here at the moment.

1317. A bird just flew in here! Also, looking carefully, I do see a few (2) stored acorns here.

1321. Is ♂ ub. Now probing around the sycamores.

1325. Still here. Could actually be a resident of sorts, I suppose. But will require more watching to find out.

24 December 1300. A bird flushed from in front of the barn again - it looks as though someone may really be living here after all.

31 December 1350. ♂ ub hawking and sitting in front of the barn.

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Pump Hastings Reservation

3 February 1310. Walking up I saw ♀M/OB-LB #432 in the Willow forest. Despite this hopeful observation, a climb up into the tree revealed that no stored acorns remain - all have been pecked open (many shells remain in place) and eaten. This even includes the acorns in the 2 small limbs I'd just placed a few feet off the ground ~~on~~ in the remains of the willow! Apparently I can be hopeful that the group is still here, however, at least for the moment.

1610. On the way back ♂M/or. #430 was sitting in the area. They're hanging in there after all!

4 February 1400. I put 70 acorns up in holes in the Valley Oak here. I had just flushed a color-banded bird from there, who may or may not have been one of the 3 birds living here.

8 February Added another 72 acorns. A few were left from the 4th; the others had all clearly been consumed by pecking woodpeckers.

13 February Added about 65 peanuts (raw) and 10 acorns. Saw no birds, but there were once again practically no remains from the last provisioning.

15 February A ♀ is sitting over near the granary here.

21 February Added 40 peanuts. The prior batch has been cleared out quite thoroughly.

~~24 February~~

24 February 1010. ♀M/DB-Lght #432 sitting in the Valley Oak granary.

1200. Gave these birds 102 more peanuts, which they seem to avidly consume.

4 March 1630. Flushed one bird here on this amazingly wet day as I came down and gave them 150 more peanuts.

11 March 1600. Added another 100 peanuts (all others were gone!) No AW seen.

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Pump Hastings Reservation

12 March Things don't look good here. In passing by at 1700, several jays and a Brown Towhee were investigating the stores entirely unmolested, and I was unable to see any sign of woodpeckers. Furthermore, almost all of the peanuts already had been pecked at, indicating considerable jay ~~removal~~ marauding and possibly little or no woodpecker defense. Ergo, the group may have given up.

13 March 1030. One or the other of the banded ♀♀ was in the sycamore perch tree. There may be hope yet.

1630. Added 65 acorns. All else had already been eaten and/or pilfered.

14 March 1325. ! ♀ LB #432 and a ♂ in the granary! Looks good!

15 March 1200. Added another 40 acorns to the already demolished stores. I tried to put them in areas that the jays will have a harder time getting to.

1800. Obviously this isn't working: all stores have already (!) been eaten or pilfered from the granary!

18 March 1600. Put in 100 peanuts.

19 March With 2 birds here this morning, I added another 80 peanuts to the already dwindling stores.

24 March 1630. Despite the losing battle, I added 70 more peanuts here. I did not see either of the banded birds around, but an unbanded ♂ was by the Pump probing around inside the canopy.

Within minutes there is a Scrub Jay (already with a peanut) and 2 Brown Towhees in the area.

25 March 1540. ≥3 Y birds in the granary here. Looks very bad for the group here.

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Pump — Hastings Reservation

31 March 1445. Nobody seen here in passing.

8 April No sign of anybody here.

9 April Purge: ♀429. Last seen 12 December 1977. This bird was not seen again after the granary fell on or about 18 December, in particular when I watched on 26 December and saw the other 2: Disappeared about 19 December 1977 ± 1 week.

11 April 1800. Set up 325 acorns in the tree before dusk. Tried to get them in tightly!

12 April 715. There are at least 2 or 3 birds here already, but its still pretty quiet. ①♂RRR #88 from 1500 is one. ②♂Or/Yel-DG #297 (1500). ③♂LBlue/LP #296 (1500). ④♂ Yel/Red Yel/Red #402 (School Hill),

720. No big chasing, but more birds than I thought here.

725. Somebody (♂402?) is being chased by the 1500 birds. Some ~~great~~ greeting wakas and a few karrits so far, but no Carricks at all.

730. ♂402 is pecked at like a subordinate by the 1500 birds rather than as an intruder (!) Also a noisier 5th bird now here somewhere

733. ⑤♀ub (!) here. Birds flying off towards 1500, (and back) but without acorns in their bills - apparently I put them in tightly enough.

736. ⑥♂LG-DG/M #298 here also. ♂402 still here. 1500 birds come and go.

738. A ♂ went to a live willow nearby and drummed lightly,

740. 1500 birds are successfully pilfering a few acorns.

745. Action is slowish but steady. It ought to be a good day! No sign of the old Pump birds so far. ♀ub still here. Leaving skarnitcutting.

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Pump Hastings Reservation

(12 April) 900. Back again. ♀ub drumming in the storage tree. 1-2 other birds in the area. Carricks! (Coming from the willows).

910. ♂88 and ♂ 297 here, also a banded ♀. ♂402 still here.

915. Some more Carricks from the willows. ♀ub in the granary drumming.

925. Someone's Carricked about 12 times back in the willows.

Yes → (Or.LW) 928. Some new birds - an Or.LW(?); also a good fight - 2 birds grasping each other briefly.

1015. Leaving. Action is constantly moderate. Same old birds, with the 1500 birds stealing some more acorns. Didn't get a look at the Or.LW bird, but was indeed an Or.LW!

1435. Back. Action seems to be about as before. ♂402 here. ♀ub here.

1450. There is a notable lull at the moment - nobody here at all for the last 10 minutes.

1500. Someone Carricked from the willows. Still no action at the granary.

1502 ♀ub, ♂296, and ♂297 now in granary. The ♀ is quite interested in being friendly; she greets everyone.

1505. ♂298 apparently pecked dominantly at ♀ub, displacing her. ♂88 here also. Nobody new, however. 1500 birds are definitely tolerant, if not friendly, to ♂402.

1513. Two dominance interactions: ♂296 > ♀ub; ♂88 > ♂297.

1515. Leaving. Except for the ♀, ♂402, and the Or.LW this morning, this is not very enlightening thus far.

One thing that's clear is that the old Pump birds are indeed gone: Purge: ♂430, ♀432. Former last seen 3 February, latter last seen 14 March. (& a ♂ present 14 March as well). Both (probably) responded to peanuts put in on 19 March, but neither was seen on or after

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Pump — Hastings Reservation

(12 April) 25 March even when acorns were added. ∴ Abandoned about 22 March 1978.

13 April 1300. 1 bird flushed when I arrived and there are still some acorns left, but everything is rather quiet.

1305. ♂402 here eating an acorn. ♀ub also. Now ♂88 here (joining them). Some greeting wakas. ♂217 here. Things would appear to be pretty much the same as yesterday. ♀ub and ♂402 still both here regularly; 1500 birds commuting.

1315. The ♀ seems to be making rather a lot of noise (lots of harrit-ing). ♂402 continues to be subordinate to the whims of the 1500 ♂♂. Leaving.

14 April 1830. There is a ♂ sitting in the granary, but otherwise it's dead quiet here and about all the acorns appear to be cleared out of the storage area.

16 April No sign of life here this evening.

19 April 1320. On the far side of the knoll just above the pond here is ♂Yel/DP#402 still, eating some oak buds.

21 April 1700. No sign of anyone down here.

27 April 1700. " " " " " " .

12 May 810. Several birds here: ♂RRBW#88 and ♂Or/Yel-Da#297 (1500) along with ♀M/DB-LB#432. Possibly here for water - they're not at the granary. Right now they're in the Valley Oaks by the pond.

Well - with ♀432 here the picture changes!

13 May 1500-1700. As another attempt to lure birds here, I placed 500 good acorns in the granary as well as Road 1's 1977 nest hole.

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Pump Hastings Reservation

14 May 1030. Watching. As expected, there's lots of activity here, Carricks, upset birds (6 or so), etc.

1035. ①♀or-Blk/Or-Wh #435. ②♂YRW #296 (1500), chasing. Lots of Karrit-cuts. ③♂RRR #88 (1500).

1040. ♀435 Carricking in nearby willow. ④♂or/DG. #297 (1500) There are 2 or 3 other birds getting chased here, however. ⑤♂ Yel/DP #402 (Sch Hill) is here again.

1050. Best I can tell, ♀435, who is Carricking and making quite a commotion, is being chased by the 1500 ♂♂ every time she goes to the granary and is more or less relegated to the surrounding willows. The 1500 ♂♂, meanwhile, are in there eating away at the acorns, even though it's hot out and they shouldn't really need them (I haven't seen anybody fly off with one yet).

1057. ⑥♂ Lg-Dk/M #298 (1500).

1103. All 4 1500 ♂♂ right here together in the granary. They seem to be chasing anyone else who comes in there today, including the ♀ (435 - haven't seen any others yet) and ♂402.

1115. Leaving. Looks like a repeat of last time. But I'll have to wait and see.

17 May 1030. There was still activity here yesterday, but now, the 4th day since I put out the acorns, the area is all quiet and the stores have been totally ~~crap~~ cleared out. Oh well.

20 May 730. Something going on here, with 1 bird Carricking in the granary and 2-3 others over on the near side of the knoll.

1400. Someone busy Carricking here in addition to the action at Y.

4 June Nothing at all here for the past 2 weeks.

Melanerpes formicivorus

PUMP — Hastings Reservation

10 September Took down the roost hole I'd put up last spring here today. No birds seen here for sometime now.

17 September Spent about an hour here this afternoon clearing out some of the new growth from around the granary limbs and refurbishing some of the more worn holes.

21 September Noone here this morning.

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1500 Hastings Reservation

3 February 1330. Watching.

1345. ①♂ Or/Wh-Da# 297 in tree 3 doing some hawking.

1355. ②♂ LB/LP# 296 now in tree 3 also.

1400. ③♀ †DBRW# 348 and ④♂ LG-DG/Bel # 298 in tree 1; ♂298 eating an acorn.

1405. ⑤♂ Red/# 88 + 3-4 others all converged in tree 2. I think they must be drive-bombing squirrels over here.

1410. That's all, in any case. Going to count stores.

Stores: tree 1: 1566

tree 2: 660

TOTAL 2226. Doing quite well.

A sample of ~40 acorns was taken from tree 2.

16 March 1840. Right at the very last minute several birds appeared very briefly in Tree 4, where it appeared as though they may have roosted. At least one bird, however, flew across the creek, back to Tree 1, and then back across the creek, apparently roosting in one of the larger oaks next to or near the road.

31 March 1500. Counted stores: Tree 1: 554; Tree 2: 138 } 692

8 April Set up a trap at the roost hole in the Main tree (Tree 1).

9 April 600. Caught ♂88 and ♂296, the only 2 roosting in the hole (the others may have roosted in 1800's old nest tree, now still possibly part of 1500). I wingstreamered them, let ♂296 recover, and released them. It worried me, however - the entire situation - 88 roosting here at the last minute, etc., was almost like they had eggs here already. I certainly hope not to have messed up a nest!

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Hastings Reservation

12 April All the ♂♂ over at Pump - see Pump notes (they're there filching acorns and bringing them back to here).

13 April 1400. There is a bird in the hole in tree 1. It turns out to be ♂296. ♀348 joined him up in tree 3, however. Good to see ♂296 willing to go into the hole again so soon. Also ♀348 is still here, and ~~there~~ their nest should be forthcoming (if, in fact, it's not here already!).

16 April 1830. Walking down the hill from Haystack, I flushed ♀348 and ♂298 together in a tree above 1800's old nest tree - obviously this area does still belong to 1500. The other ♂♂ were nowhere nearby. Meanwhile, at least one was in the hole in tree 1, where my guess is there is a nest.

17 April 1345. Bird in hole here again.

1730. Started to saw open the hole - christ! What a bear! I gave up after about ½ an hour and will attempt(!) to get in the rest of the way tomorrow.

18 April 930. Successfully negotiated the hole after bringing the aluminum ladder onto the scene as well as modifying the new electric jig-saw. In any case - 3 eggs. Not only that, but they look dirty and opaque (i.e. incubated).

1730. I am quite concerned - not only was there not a bird in the nest when I came to open it (I think), but there was no bird when I checked it late this afternoon. It's hard to imagine that I've scared them off by opening the nest - especially after they successful negotiated me catching 2 birds roosting in the nest, but I fear that possibly I have.

19 April 1325. ♂296 in Tree 1, but noone in nest hole, which must surely be

(go to p. 4)

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

See 1500 notes for indications of a nest as early as 9 April.

18 April 930 — 3 eggs, dirty and opaque (incubated).
① 25.3 × 18.7
② 25.7 × 18.5
③ 25.5 × 18.5

22 April 1430. — Nest failed. No eggs inside.

6 May 1800 — Bird in hole

8 May 945 — 3 eggs, dirty and opaque (incubated)
① 26.2 × 19.8
② 26.3 × 18.9
③ 26.5 × 18.7

12 May 1000 — Still 3 eggs, warm.

	(441) ① Red-~~D~~ Mauve	(#442) ② No band
17 May 1600 [Wt (wing length)]	17.4 (10mm)	17.1 (9mm)
28 May 1800	62.7 (21mm)	60.6 (18mm)
6 June 1900	88.5 (~~80~~ 76mm)	82.5 (76mm)

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Hastings Reservation

(19 April) abandoned. Another one of those nest failure riddles, I fear - insoluble as always.

1450. Bird in the hole - there may be hope yet!

22 April 1430. Finally got up my nerve to check the nest. More or less as I'd feared, nothing is now there.

25 April 1740. Nobody in the hole here.

6 May 1800. Bird in the hole.

7 May 1535. Bird in hole. About time to see what's up again.

8 May 945. Checking the hole, there are again 3 opaque (incubated) eggs, which were measured and returned. Good going, birds!

1720. ♀DBRW#348 sitting in tree 3.

1930. Best I could tell, ♂88 (alone) is roosted in the nest hole this evening.

9 May 1630 - 1920. Watched nest here. Visits and action were as follows:

1639. ♂ looked out of hole. Left at 1648.

♀348	♂88	♂296	♂297	♂298
				1648: In
		1705. Landed at hole		1705 Out.
1708. In				
1715. Out				
1716. In				
1744. Out		1721. At lip. Flew away		
	1744+ In			
	1746. Out			1746, In
		1749. At lip. Flew away		1802. Out
2 visits		1802. In		
35 min.	1810. At lip. Left.	1818. Out		
	1818. At lip. In			
	1902. Out			
	1907. At lip. Flew off	[1906. In] ← No wing streamer, but too dark for sure id.		
	1916. In for evening	1914. Out		
	2 visits + Night 46 min + "	2 visits 24 min	0 visits	2 visits 33 min

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Hastings Reservation

12 May 820. Watching nest. I'm worried about it, though, as both ♂88 and ♂297 were just seen down at the Pump and there was noone in the nest when I arrived.

827. ♀348 hawking from tree 3. ♂YRW#296 there also. Also an unwingstreamered ♂.

850. Definitely does not look good here. Leaving and will return to open it up and check for sure.

1000. Opened the nest and found the same 3 eggs warm and apparently in good condition. Guess I've just been scaring them off!

1825. Bird in hole.

17 May 1030. Listening carefully I could ~~hore~~ hear the whistles of very young babies. They've hatched.

1600. Opened nest: 2 babies only; weighed, wing lengths taken, marked, and returned. No other egg in nest - the 3rd probably hatched and starved already.

1930. At dusk tonight, 1 bird, without a wingstreamer, went in, followed several minutes later by ♂88 (RKR). I did not see anyone leave the hole, so it is entirely possible that both stayed in. Unfortunately, I can't be sure of who the 2nd bird was.

19 May 1030. Came by and counted stores:

Tree 1: 192
Tree 2: 37
} 229.

Some of these obviously came from the Pump. Also, I started worrying about the nest, but after a time a ♂ finally stuck his head out, so it's probably ok.

20 May 740-1100. Watched the nest here; see back.

~~740~~

20 May 1978 Nest Watch

740. Watching [This group is feeding young]
749. ♀348 fed. Out 756
757. ♂88 in Out 805
806. ♀348 in Out 808
808. ♂298 in Out 809
810. ♂88 in Out 813
812. ♀348 in Out 816(?)
815. ♂296 in Out 818
818. ♂88 in Out 820
820 ♂298 in Out 821
820. ♀348 in Out 825
822. ♂298 in Out 825
830. ♀348 in Out 832
832. ♂296 in Out 835
835. ♀348 in Out 837
837 ♂298 in Out 850
850. ♀348 in ~~out 853~~ out 853
852. ♂296 in Out 910
913. ♂296 in Out 922
922. ♀348 in Out 925
927. ♀348 in Out 931 (with fecal sac)
932. ♀348 in Out 934
934. ♂296 in Out 937
937. ♀348 in Out 944
948. ♀348 in Out 957
1002. ♀348 in Out 1008 (w/ fecal sac)
1010. ♀348 in Out 1013
1013. ♂298 in Out 1015
1015. ♂88 in Out 1018
1018. ♀348 in Out 1025 (w/ fecal sac)
1031. Intruder ~~Got~~ being chased around here.
That's all - recorder messed up last ½ hour

Bird	#feeding visits	Time In Nest
♀348	15	65
♂296	5	36
♂297	0 (This bird seen later at Y)	
♂298	5	20
♂88	4	16
Total	29	137

Minutes recorded: 170

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 Hastings Reservation

(20 May) 1115. ♂297, not seen at all attending the nest, is over at ♀ attending the revolution there.

21 May 1930. At dusk tonight ♂88 was the only bird roosting in the nest (best I could tell!). ♂ nows (#298) plus ♀348 seen going to the nest before dusk as well.

22 May 1140. Watching nest.

1150.! Lots of activity here - greetings, etc. - a minor revolution! So far no one going to the nest, however. ♂ Yel-DG/Or #297 here preening in Tree 1!

1152. Someone getting chased. ♂296 displacing a bird now, just above the nest hole. ♂88 here.

1200. ♀no wing streamer here in Tree 1.

1205. Someone Garricking up on the knoll somewhere. ♀ub here for sure, greeting the ♂♂! ♂298 here.

- 1208. ♂296 with food feeding ♀. Leaves 1209. May be hope for the nest yet!

1210. Someone Garricking like crazy (at least 50 times in last 5 minutes!) up on the knoll:

- 1218. ♂298 in hole. Leaves 1220.

1220. ♀ub walked near nest hole - immediately displaced
- by ♂296, who then went in the hole. Left 1223.
- 1228. ♂296 in hole again. Someone Garricking in tree 1.

1230. ♀ub near nest hole again - displaced quickly by ♂296 coming out of the hole.

- 1232. ♂298 going in hole; leaving. ♀ub seen in tree 1 again.
- 1235. ♂88 went in hole. Leaves 1237; ♂296 going in, leaving 1238. ♀ub again investigating nest hole and

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(22 May) Zap! chased immediately from the area. She doesn't seem to get chased except when she goes near the hole, however.

1240. Leaving. ♀348, who was seen last night, is gone. So far, though, the nest lives, with 7 trips seen: ♂88 - 1 trip
♂296 - 4 trips
♂298 - 2 trips.

♂297 is here, but nonetheless was not seen going to the hole. Not surprisingly, ♀348's replacement is not settled yet, and even though 1 or more ♀♀ are being apparently happily greeted here by the ♂♂, none are being allowed at the nest.

24 May 1420. Noone in the hole.

1610. ♂RRR #88, ♂♀R #296, plus a 3rd bird in tree 3, and loud raps coming from the hole - the nest is still on!

27 May Watched the nest here between 900-1200. All 4 ♂♂ were seen feeding, and additionally an unbanded ♀ was seen entering the hole several times and, whether she fed or not, removing many fecal sacs! See the back for a compilation. Some Guarricking and a little residual chasing was seen, but evidently this ♀ is pretty well moved in already (6th day).

28 May 1655. Watching nest. Set up for ambush to get ♀.

1755. Giving up. Going to check babies and dismantle the trap.

29 May Watched nest from 1530-1730. See back for a compilation.

2 June 1950. At dusk tonight, a single un-wing streamered bird roosted in the nest hole.

3 June Though the final exchange has possibly not settled down

27 May 900-1200 Nest watch (stopwatch timed)

0:00 Watching
× 16:40. Bird came out of hole.
17:15. ♂298 in. 17:30 Out ♂
20:45. ♂88 in 2:40. Leaves
× 2:15. ♂297 at hole 6ut not going in.
3:00. ♂298 in. 4:10. Out
4:00. ♂297 in. 4:15. Out
7:10. ♂88 in. 7:20 Out
9:45. ♂297 in. 10:10. Out.
10:30. ♂297 in. 10:40 Out.
13:30. ♂88 in 13:40. Out.
16:55. ♂298 in 18:05. ♂Out
21:35. ♂298 in. 26:50. Out
27:45. ♂296 in. 27:50. Out.
29:25. ♂296 in 29:35. Out
1:35. ♂298 in. 5:05. Out.
6:10. ♂296 in-fed Acorns. Had been preparing them last few minutes. 615. Out.
7:05. ♂88 in. 1300? Out
12:20. ♀! in. 1300? Out
~~♂298 in.~~
13:05. ? in. Missed. 14:35. Out
14:35. ♂298 in 14:45. Out.
18:30. ♂298 in 18:35. Out
19:35. ♂297 in 19:45 Out
2150. ♂298 in. 2430. Out
24:25. ♂296. 2740 Out
27:40. ♂88 in. 2750. Out
2810. ♂297 in. 2820. Out
230. ♂298 in 410? Out.
415. ♀ in. 440. Out with fecal sac.
620. ♂88 in. 815. Out
820. ♂296 in. 825. Out.
920. ♂88 in 945. Out
945. ♂298 in 2415. Out
2420. ♂88 in 305? Out.
310. ? ♂ in. 950. Out with fecal sac.
1090. ~~1100~~. ♀ in. 1100. Out with fecal sac.
1600. ♀ in 1650. Out with fecal sac.
1600. ♂298 in 1825. Out with fecal sac.
1840. ♂298 in 2040? ~~210~~. ♂ ~~out~~
2045 ♂296 in 000? out
010. ♀ in. 040. ♀ out with fecal sac.
115. ♀u6 in. 145. Out w/ fecal sac.
230. ♀u6 in. 250. Out w/ fecal sac.
415. ♂298 in 820. Out w/ fecal sac.
900. ♀ in. 930. Out w/ fecal sac.
1815. ♂88 in
0.00. Leaving

Bird	#Trips in	#Trips out with fecal sacs
♂88	9	0
♂296	6	0
♂297	5	0
♂298	13	2
♀(u6)	8	7
?	2	1
Total	43	10
Minutes	180	

29 May 1530-1730 Nest watch (stopwatch

000. Watching
1205. ♂298 in 1215. Out.
050. ♂88 in (w/ insects) 100. Out.
820. ♂298 in 830. Out.
1310. ♂297 in (w/ black beetle) 1410. Out
(1630)- 010. ? in (297 or 298) 015. Out
× 1530. ♀u6 at hole 6ut did not go in.
× 1745. ♂298 at hole " " " " "
2040. ♂298 in. 2155. Out.
2455. ♂298 in. 2805. Out.
330. ♂298 in. 340. Out.
1650. ♂88 in (insects) 1750. Out.
1855. ♂298 in. 1905. Out.
1940. ♂298 in. 1945. Out.
2240. ♂298 in. 2245. Out.
2245. ♂297 in 2255. Out.
0.00. Leaving

Bird	#Trips in
♂88	2
♂296	0
♂297	2
♂298	8
♀	0
?	1
Total	13

(no fecal sacs seen removed)

Minutes watched: 120

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(3 June) yet entirely, it seems reasonable for me to add an unbanded ♀ to the groups already:

Add: ♀ (unbanded). Moved here [age unknown] 22 May 1978.

4 June 1945. An unwingstreamered ♂ ~~spent~~ ~~the~~ roosted in the nest tonight; no sign of either wingstreamered bird.

6 June 1900. Zipped up to the nest and banded the 2 babies as #441 and 442, the first of the year here on the reservation.

9 June Watched the nest today from 735-1035; see compilation on back.

12 June Watched the nest from 1310-1610; see compilation on back. The babies are within a day or three of fledging.

Afterwards I checked stores; I could find none = 0 in ~~the~~ Tree 2 but found 57 in tree 1; certainly enough to be certain that they still have something.

There was no sign of a ♀ here today, similar to the case on 9 June.

1915. Returned for a final roost watch.

1955. Was able to observe first ♂298 (w band on left leg seen) and then ♂88 both roost in the nest hole, for an all-time first (though I'd had indirect evidence of 2 birds roosting in the nest hole at once before).

14 June Watched the nest here from 830-1130. See compilation on back. An unbanded ♀ was seen twice in the area (once at the hole) but did not feed the babies.

25 June 705. ♂RRR ~~#~~88 or in Valley Oak at fenceline up toward Hay-Blon.

1 July 1920. Came by to measure the nest hole, flushing lots of birds, inc. ≥2 from the hole, at least one of which was a baby.

9 June 735-1035 Nestwatch

by stopwatch.
d=dip i=inside nest [i] fed insects for sure

At hole	Left hole
000. watching	
2920. 8296d.	2945.
1230. 8298d.	1240.
1250. 888d	1255.
1345. 8298d	1352.
2230. 888i	2245.
2525. 8296d	2600.
2605. 8298i	2610.
1950. 8298i	2000.
2040. 888d	2045.
2230. 888i	2315.
2355. 8296i [i]	2430.
400. 888i	430.
650. 8297i	705.
745. 888i	752.
1750. 888i [i]	1805.
2020. 8297i	2035.
2340. 888i	2408.
+ 2435. 8296 did not feed.	2455.
130. 888i	200.
850. 8298i [i]	900.
1335. 888i	1342.
+ 1345. 8298 did not feed.	1400.
1445. 888i [i]	1520.
1735. 8298i	1742.
1900. 8297i	1910.
045. 8296d	050.
120. 8296d	135.
1740. 888i [i]	1800.
1835. 8298i	1845.
2030. 8296d	000 still there
000. leaving.	

Bird	#times fed	#times F.S. Removed
888	12	0
8296	6	0
8297	3	0
8298	7	0
Total	28	0
Minutes watched		180

12 June 1310-1610 Nestwatch

all are dips except as noted by i

At hole	Leaves	
000. watching		
1145. 8298	1155.	
1250. 8296	1255.	
1500. 8298i	1512.	
1545. 8296	1555.	
1555. 8297	1610.	
1800. 8298	1810.	
1850. 8298	1900.	
2905. 888	2910.	
2935. 888	2940.	
040. ? i	030.	
100. 8298	110.	
115. 888	120.	
310. 888	315.	
930. 888	935.	
1410. 888	1417.	
1910. 888	1915.	
2200. 888	2208.	
1115. 888	1120.	
2245. 8298	2250.	
2330. 8298	2335.	
2445. 8298	2450.	
2620. 8298	2625.	
2920. 8298	2925.	
620. 8298	625.	
1230. 8? i	1238.	
2020. 8298	2025.	
2830. 888	2835.	
100. 8298 i	125.	w/ fs
2730. 8298	2735.	
2830. 8298	2840.	
100. 8298	105.	
105. 888	110.	
305. 8297	315.	
320. 8298	325.	
410. 8297	2125.	
2300. 8298	2303.	
2520. 8298	2523.	
000. leaving		

Bird	#times fed	#times fs removed
888	11	0
8296	2	0
8297	3	0
8298	19	1
8?.	2	0
Total	37	1

Minutes Watched: 180

14 June 830-1130 Nestwatch

all are dips except as noted by "i"
[a] = fed acorns, [i] = insects

Feeds	Leaves
000. watching	
725. 8298 in	735.
2810. 8297 in	2830.
1345. 8297	1420.
1800. 8296	1810.
915. 8296	920
1645. 8298	1653
2310. 8298	2320.
2600. 8298	2610.
050. 888	100.
+ 050. 8ub at hole w/ 88 but did not feed.	
110. 8296	115.
350. 8296	400.
745. 8298	752.
1310. 8298	1315.
2415. 8297	2423.
2500. 888	2506
145. 8298	205.
208. 8297 [a]	215.
320. 8296	350.
1645. 8298	1650.
1710. 888	1715.
1825. 8298	1830.
2000. 8296	2010.
330. 8296	350.
1440. 8297	1448.
2400. 888	2405.
2710. 8297	2715.
000. leaving	

Bird	#times fed
888	4
8296	7
8297	6
8298	9
Total	26

No feeds says removed
Minutes watched:
180

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14 July 640. Watching from hide.

705. ① ♂ LG-DG/LG-Wh #298.

708. Intruder briefly in tree 2 - nervous but not vocally chased by ♂298: j M/Wh-DG W-DG/W-DG #448 (Hay-B/OM).

710. ② ♂ LB/LP #296 joined ♂298 in tree 2.

712. Now in tree 2: ③ ♂ Y-DG/Or #297 and ④ ♀ub

727. ⑤ j Blk-Or/Blk #441.

738. j441 being fed by ♂296 now.

750. Another "intruding" baby: j Blk/Wh-Blk #454 (School Hill) Not chased by anyone.

810. In confrontation with ♂298, ♂297 gave brief submissive gestures; i.e. ♂298 > ♂297. ♀ub in tree 1; now j441 here again.

827. j441 abode me in tree 3.

840. j441 again in tree 1 begging below ♂296.

845. Birds over on seep side sapsucking now.

850. Leaving. I'm not 100% convinced, but I rather feel I should have seen all of the birds.

Counted stores: ○. This group is functionally out.

4 August 850-905. Nobody at all seen over here - birds possibly over across the creek.

1550. j Blk-Wh/Blk #441 in tree 3, flying to seep area.

4 September 1250. Because of numbers (4-5) and the presence of begging birds I think the birds foraging just on the S side of the road across from 1800 are 1500 birds. In any case, I saw one ♀ land on a Madrone branch and pick a berry.

1330. ♂ RLR #88 in tree 3 along with 2 others.

5 September 600. An ambush at the '78 nest hole on this rainy morning

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(5 September) yielded only 2 birds, but luckily one was the unbanded ♀, who was turned into bird #475. Also caught was ♂296.

13 September 815. ♂296 seen in tree 3.

14 September 1315. ♂88 plus 2 others in tree 3. Also, there are several new green acorns stored here.

23 September Several changes in the group's history here:

♀33. This bird probably was not seen on 20 Aug. 1975; rather I believe she left right at that time, leading to a revolution which resulted in the addition of

♀ub, who I will assume moved in on 23 August 1975.

♀ub, ~~above~~ above, probably not ♀260, as this bird was banded 10 April 1976 while an ub♀ was seen at 1500 as late as 22 April. The revolution here at that time is more probably the replacement of ♀ub by ♀260.

← ♀260. Moved as adult to 1500 11 May 1976.

1600. Watching from hide. ①♂RW#296 sitting, preening in Tree 1. ②♂RR#88 sitting in Tree 2.

1615 ③♀ wh/LB #475 with an acorn to stores. ④? Blk-Or #441 in tree 1 with an acorn. ⑤♂ Or/Y-DG #297.

1630. ⑥♂ LG-DG/LG-Yel #298. LG-DG/M

1635. Apparently an intruder here, summarily chased.

1650. Leaving. All except j442. However, given how hard it is to see the babies here (I only had the briefest glance at j441) I wouldn't say he's gone for sure yet - just about 85% probability. These birds are into storing ~~acorns~~ with alacrity.

Purge: j442. Not seen after banding on 6 June.

3 November 940. ①♂ LG-DG/LG-Yel #298 in tree 3. ②♂ Yel-DG/Or #297 there also.

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(3 November) 1000. Moving over to 1800, where something's up.
1003. ③♂RR#88 just showed up.
1115. Watching again.
1215. No sign of the ♀ or the baby, but I ought to watch with the hide.

5 November 1000. Watching from hide. ♂88, 297, and 298 right away.
1015. All 3 just chased a Flicker away from the granaries.
1030. Well, it's only ½ hour, but there is no hint of anybody besides these 3 ♂♂ here! Given the year, I wouldn't be surprised if they were it.

19 November 1400. Watching. ①♂LG-DG #298 and ②♂ or/Yel. # 297 in tree 3. ③♂RR#88 there now also.
1430. The 3 ♂♂ still here - meanwhile there's no sign of anybody else.

25 November ♂298 seen here by Ron Mumme.

28 November 1030. Counted stores: Tree 1 680 / Tree 2: 461 } 1141
During this I saw ♂88 chase an intruder out of tree 1 and I also saw a second ♂ resident up in tree 3.

30 November Purge: ♂296, ♀475, j441. All last seen 23 Sept., all gone by 5 November ⇒ Dis. abt. 14 Oct. ± 2 wks. They are survived by the 3 ♂♂, making this another unisexual group at the moment.

22 December 1515. A ♀ is in the hole looking out at me! Time to watch again. Oops - is a ♂ right now.

30 December Counted stores: Tree 1: 572 / Tree 2: 419 } 991. Still doing quite well!

31 December 1400. ♂Yel-DG/Or #297 plus 2nd bird here. ②♂LG-DG/M #298; ♂M/Or #88. Took a sample of 30 acorns (and replaced w/ others)

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3 February 1455. Several birds flushing from the 1500 side of the swale here are indeed 1500 birds: ♂296 and ♂298.

1500. Watching.

1520. ①♀ + wn/M #260 in main tree. Here after all! 2nd ♀ here also but failing to show her legs.

1545 ②♀ Red/ #193 above the main tree. Leaving. I got the most important birds, and I'm not all that worried about the ♂♂ (esp. the unbanded one!).

Stores: 630 (all in main tree)

19 March 1100. Counted stores: ~~XX~~ 469. Not only is this group hanging in there store-wise, but there are 2 new roost/nest(?) holes in the main tree, neither of which I remember seeing before. In the old "nest" tree, there are quite a few acorn shells which might have had acorns in them, but there are still not stores there and are possibly these birds have not even "reclaimed" it as yet.

16 April 1830. ≥1 bird in a hole in the Main tree. Meanwhile, further evidence that the area by the old nest tree still belongs to 1500 now - see 1500 notes.

17 April 1340. Nobody in holes here (in Main tree)

19 April 1330. Watching. Noone in holes.

1413. Finally got 2: ①♀ DB-LP/ + Red/M #193 and ②♂ LP-DB/LP #347.

1430. ♀193 back again. A ♂ here also. But all pretty quiet.

1445. Leaving. Pretty quiet.

22 April 1450. Watching.

1510. 3 birds here briefly: ①♀ DP?-Light/DB #193, 2 others.

1605. Well, they're here, but being none too lively about it. Leaving.

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25 April 1730. Nobody in any of the holes here.

27 April 1710. " " " " " " " ".

1845. Watched here at dusk, but learned nothing -- never even saw anyone go to roost even though there was a bird in the tree.

1 May 1115. 2 ♀♀ together in Main tree; flushed to a tree up the vale toward H-B where I saw (all?) 4 birds sitting. Now watching in hopes of quick confirmation.

1210. Finally: ①♀ Ret/M #193 and ②♂ ub.

1230. Once again I am foiled of seeing everybody, but it is now clear that the 4 are here, even though ♀260 remains unaccountably elusive.

6 May 1545. Bird in hole in main tree - could be it.

7 May 1520. Nobody in the hole. Counted stores: 275.

8 May 955. Nobody in holes here.

1515. Bird in hole.

10 May 1525. Noone in holes in Main tree.

11 May 1140. 2 birds at the hole - should be soon here.

12 May 1115. Hole opened - 7 eggs, all barely able to fit onto the bottom. Wow! Another nest with both ♀♀ laying!

17 May 1035. Bird in hole.

19 May 1645. Nest checked with light-mirror gadget confirming 7 eggs.

20 May 1415-1515. Tried to watch the nest, but I'm going to need a hide. I did see ♀ DB-LP/DB Ret/M #193. Birds were attending the nest.

27 May 1500. A bona-fide failure: no trace of eggs or babies in nest. Group definitely does still have stores, however. Rats.

3 June 1245. ♂ub and 2nd ♂ atop granary. Noone in any holes here. [go to p.4]

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1800 Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

12 May 1115 — Hole opened: 7 fresh eggs:

① 26.5 × 21.4
② 27.1 × 21.1
③ 25.1 × 21.1
④ 24.0 × 19.3
⑤ 23.5 × 19.5
⑥ 23.4 × 19.3
⑦ 23.6 × 17.7

19 May 1645 — 7 eggs. (hole checked with mirror).

27 May 1500. — Nothing in nest. Failed.

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6 June 1130. At least one bird flushed from here, but noone in any holes.
1140. ♀ DB-LP/DB# 193 here; possibly also an intruder.

13 June 1850. Noone here in passing.

15 June 1625. ♀ WH/DB# 260 seen at the nest hole at Haystack-Blomquist (see H-B notes)

19 June 1545. ♀ DB-LP/DB# 193 atop main tree as I came down to count stores: 190. Nobody in any holes.

1 July 1930. Nobody in any holes.

14 July 915. Counted stores: 198 (essentially no change).

8 September 1430. Counted stores: 43. No new ones yet.

13 September 820. Watching.
835. ① ♂ ub in main tree hawking and sitting.
842. ② ♀ WH/DB ♀ WH/M #260.
852. 2nd ♀ here now along with ♀260.
925. ♂ ub here again. No storing; birds still hawking.
950. Leaving. Activity is pretty low. No sign of ♂ 347 seen, but the other 3 seem to still be here.

This evening we saw 2 (maybe 3 at most) in the side tree over by Horsetail.

15 September 600. After seeing 2 birds go into (a) the hole in the dead Valley Oak last night I ambushed this morning and got them with no trouble: ♀260 and an unbanded AO ♂, now ♂476.

3 November 1005. Enough activity here to look interesting. Watching.
① ♀ WH/DB ♀ WH/M #260 in Main tree.
1030 ② ♂ BLK/LG #476 now there preening. Pretty quiet.
1045. Investigating the "Nest" tree: ♂ WH/DB or M/DB or #466 (Gate)
1050. ♂476 now in "Nest" tree (note: this area is probably

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(3 November) now "reclaimed" from 1500).

1052: ♂466 now being displaced over in the Main tree.

1100. Leaving. Looks calm after all. Only ♀260 + ♂~~#~~ 476 here.

Counted stores: 380, all in the Main tree.

19 November 1430. Watching.

1448. ① ♂Brn/Lt #476; ② ♀Wh/M #260.

1500. Nothing else seems to be going on here.

26 November ♂476 seen at Y by Bon- see Y notes (and his notes).

30 November Purge: ♂347. Last seen 19 April, ~~gone by~~ 2 ♂♂ seen on 3 June, gone by 13 September → Dis. abt 23 July ± 1 month.

Probably not! ♀193. Last seen 19 June, (2 ♀♀ seen on 13 September?), gone by 15 September → Dis. abt. 31 July ± 1 month.

This group, at least, is still composed of ♂♂ and ♀♀ (1 each).

31 December Counted stores: 356, in Main Tree.

Took a sample of 26 acorns and replaced them with some of my own.

1978 Walter D. Koenig

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Horsetail — Hastings Reservation

2 September — This afternoon Ron Munne and I hoisted up the first section of "enriched" Sycamore granary here alongside the crossings on the edge of Haystack Hill (600 holes, section formerly of Road 1). This area has often held isolated individuals of pairs temporarily, but I've never known it to be within anybody's territory.

3 September — We added a 2nd section this morning with an additional 620 holes for a total now of 1220.

4 September — 1330. Added another small piece of sycamore granary with 100 holes for a total of 1320.

8 September — 1430. Noone seen here in passing.

10 September — 1310. 2 birds were in the vicinity here - on the edge of the field toward Gate and up on the side of Haystack Hill. Both birds flew up Haystack a ways. Neither were closer than 60m from the granary, but they certainly were close enough to probably know it's there.

21 September — Noone here this afternoon.

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Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

3 January Took a sample of 50 acorns, 35 or so from holes in a downed limb which I hadn't known had holes before (it has 100 or so).

13 February 1045-1100. Watched the birds eating acorns ~~in~~ and possibly sapsucking here. At 1100 all 4 converged together in the granary; I saw and identified the 2 ♂♂ and ♀176; I did not see the bands of the 2nd ♀ (the 4th bird), but I haven't the slightest doubt that she's ♀247.

1105. ♀ wh-Dk #247 seen before leaving.

24 February 1020. ♀ wh-Dk/Red #247 in granary.

Counted stores: 1286. Doing well!

19 March 1030. Counted stores: 1125. The birds were fairly conspicuous here on this beautiful sunny day, and at least 1 intruder was chased while I was counting.

13 April 1330. Several birds heard here in passing. Nobody at holes. 1 unbanded ♂ seen wandering ~~on~~ around on the side toward 1800.

16 April 1800. 2 birds, inc. ♀176, flushed out of a hole in the big Valley Oak up on Hastings above the granary. Nobody seen anywhere else.

21 April 1755. No sign of anybody in a hole.

26 April 815. Bird flushed from '75-'76 nest hole...

1140. Bird in '76 nest hole again. That's got to be it.

27 April 1630. Came up but noone in the hole. Nonetheless, having brought the ladder up, I opened it to check and yes, there was nothing in it. The bottom was set for one though.

5 May 1330. Bird in hole again—time to check once more.

Counted stores: 676

~~1~~ 1730. Success: 2 fresh eggs (bird in hole again too). [go to p. 3.]

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Haystack-Blomquist Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

27 April 1630. Bird in hole but no eggs.

5 May 1700. 2 eggs, fresh:

		wt (7 May)
①	25.3 × 19.2	5.2 gm
[infertile] ②	25.8 × 20.0	5.4 gm

6 May 1730. 4 eggs:

③	25.7 × 19.8	5.5 gm
④	21.0 × 18.0	3.5 gm

7 May 1615. 6 eggs, also all eggs weighed

⑤	26.2 × 19.9	5.6 gm
⑥	23.9 × 19.2	4.9 gm

8 May 1700. 7 eggs:

		wt (8 May)
[infertile] ⑦	24.9 × 19.5	5.2 gm.

11 May 1130. Still 7 eggs

21 May 1430. 5 babies and 2 undeveloped eggs:

①	Brown-Or 23.6 gm	④	No band 11.9 gm
②	LB-Yel 21.0 gm	⑤	No band 3.9 gm (starving)
③	Mauve-DB 17.0 gm		

Eggs #② and ⑦ did not hatch. Neither contained a developed embryo.

10 June 1730. 4 babies, bled + banded

①	②	③	④
448 (Brn-Or)	449 (LB-Yel)	450 (M-DB)	451 (NB)
88.4 (WL 97 mm)	81.4 (90)	79.0 (84)	81.1 (76)

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Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

6 May 1730. Woopee!! Noone in the hole but there are now 4 eggs! They're both doing it!

7 May 710. Watching nest from hide. Flushed a bird out of it when I arrived.

716. ♂ 0r. Wal/Or #171 plus a ♀ come here; ♂ preens at lip for a minute before entering nest, ♀ leaves.

730. ♂171 looking out.

731. ♂171 out. Nest empty.

735. ♂173 in.

747. ♂173 out. Empty./751. ♀247 in./757. ♂173 looked in, left; ♀176 (no wing streamer) looked in, left. ♀247 still inside. /801(?) out./805. ♂173 in./817. Out./818. ♀176 in./822. ♂171 in. Then ♀176 out./829. ♀247 in/835. ♂173 in ♂171 out./842. ♀247 out./843. ♀176 in./845? ♂173 out? 852. ♀176 out, ♂171 in./856. ♂171 out, ♂173 in./♂173 gave "begging" rattle as he was at lip and ♂171 poked his head out/.

Visitor	#	Min. in nest
♀(247)	5	40
♀(176)	4	36
♂(171)	4	44
♂(173)	6	67

Minutes watched: 180

902. ♀176 in./902.5. ♂173 out/.914. ♀176 out, ♂171 in./926. ♂171 out/. E/929. ♀247 in./933. ♀176 looked at hole, waited, got a reply from inside, and left./935. ♀247 left, ♂173 in./941. ♀176 in./952. ♀176 out/953. ♂173 out, ♀247 in/1003. ♀247 out/E/1007. ♂173 in./1045. ♀247 in./1046. Leaving (2 birds in hole).

Hole is certainly being continuously occupied (and then some!).

1615. Checked nest: 6 warm eggs, the 2 new ones of which were measured while all 6 were weighed.

8 May 1700. Nest checked: 7 eggs. 7th measured. Bird in hole.

10 May 1200-1500. Watched nest. See back.

11 May 800-1100. Watched nest. See back of p. 4. Also checked

10 May 1200-1500 Nest Watch

1200. Arrived.
1200. ♀176 in.
1201. ♂ out
1222. ♂171 in.
1223. ♀ out
1225. ♂173 in. 171 out
1231. ♀247 in. ♂ out
1233. ♂171 at lip, left
1235. ♂171 in
1240. ♀247 out
1244. ♀176 in. ♂ out
1248. ♂173 in ♀ out
1255. ♀247 in. ♂ out
1311. ♂171 in. ♀ Out
1315. ♀176 in ♂ out
1318. ♂ 173 in ♀ out
1335. ♀247 in. ♂ out
1339. ♂171 in. ♀ out
1341. ♀176 in.
1352. ♀176 out
1401. ♂ out. ♂173 in
1403. ♀247 in. ♂ out
1410. ♀176 in
1411. ♀247 out
1412. ♂171 in.
1414. Unbanded ♀ here very near hole - chased off.
1420. ♂173 in ♂171 out
1436. ♀176 out
1500. ♂ still in hole.
1506. ♂173 still in. Leaving.

Compilation

	♀247	♀176	♂171	♂173
# Visits (# times went into hole)	4	5	5	5
# Minutes in hole	37	67	46	78

84? RLM 4 Aug 1979

Minutes watched: 186

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blanquist Hastings Reservation

(11 May) the nest, finding an unchanged 7 eggs.

1930. Returned to watch at dusk in an attempt to find out which ♂ roosts with the eggs, but the same ♂ who was in the hole when I arrived at 1900 stayed in the whole time with no visits from the outside at all. Earlier next time!!

1934. A brief visit by somebody (it's dark!) but the bird flew off right away (after making sure someone else was inside already maybe?)

12 May 1840. Watching nest for ther "rooster" again.

1850. ♂ left nest.

1855. ♂ 173 in.

1910. ♂ 173 out

1912. ♂171 in.

1935. 2nd ♂ (173) in; 1 ♂ out. Argh.

1936. 2nd ♂ came to nest, called, got an answer ("Yes, I'm here") dipped in, left.

1937. 2nd ♂ returned again ("Are you sure you're ok?") (Yes yes, I'm fine") seemed to get merely a "chatter" from the bird inside, then left.

Foiled again.

17 May 1040. Bird at hole.

18 May Tried to pin down who roosts in the nest again tonight, but once again there was little hope, with the last bird coming in at 1930. Only one did roost in the nest, however.

21 May 1415. Opened the hole, first pulling out ♀247, who was in brooding the 5 babies and 2 infertile eggs. 1 of the babies was clearly starving and almost dead. Both infertile eggs were taken; both were "normal" sized.

11 May 800-1100 Nest watch

802. ♂173 in
804. ♀? out
806. ♂171 at hole, off. How do they know someone's inside who doesn't want to be relieved?
840. ♂173 out
841. ♂171 in
856. ♀176 in. ♂ out
900. ♂173 at hole.
901. ♀ out, ♂173 in.
912. ♀176 in. ♂ out
916. ♀247 at hole. Moved off. ♀176 looking out
917. ♀176 out
918. ♀247 in
920. ♂171 at hole. In
922. ♀ out
923. ♂173 in. ♂171 out
931. ♀176 in. ♂ out
941. ♂171 at hole. ♀ left. ♂171 in.
1007. ♀247 in. ♂ out
1010. ♂173 in
1014. ♀ out.
1031. ♀176 in. ♂ out
1036. ♂171 at hole. Flew off.
1038. ♂171 in. ♀ out
1042. ♂173 at hole. Moving to top of limb.
1046. ♀ out. ♂173 in.
1053. ♀176 in. ♂ out.
1100. ♀ out. ♀247 in.
1102. Leaving

minutes
13
34
52
85

times in nest
3
5
7
5

Compilation:

Bird
♀247
♀176
♂171
♂173

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23 May 1445-1700. Watched the nest with some difficulty, inasmuch as it was very cool and windy outside and the birds were relatively difficult to see. In any case, see the back for a compilation. Best I could tell, most or all of the visits were with insects, though it's hard to imagine where they're getting them from on a day like this.

24 May 1000-1350. Watched the nest again. Still cool and windy, but not as bad as yesterday. See back for the compilation.

30 May 1415. Bird in hole.

31 May Watched the nest here from 635-935. All 4 birds were here and all identified feedings were of insects:

0.00. watching - time by stopwatch.

755. ♂173 in (insects)	805. Out
1200. ♀247 in (")	1210. Out
1230. ♂173 in.	1240. Out
2050. ♂173 in (insects)	2100. Out
2145. ♂171 in (")	2210. Out w/ fecal sac
2630. ♂173 in	2640. Out
1435. ♂173 in (insects)	1443. Out
1605. ♀176 in.	1625. Out
1640. ♀247 in (insects)	1800. Out
2350. ♀176 in	2410. Out
2415. ♂173 in	2505. Out w/ fecal sac
1320. ♂173 in	1335. Out w/ fecal sac
1345. ♀176 in	1400. Out.
1610. ♂171 in (insects)	1630. Out w/ fecal sac
195. ♀176 in	1925. Out.
2240. ♂173 in.	2305. Out.
2345. ♀176 in	2355. Out.
2450. ♂171 in.	2515. Out w/ fecal sac
2540. ♂173 in (insects)	2550. Out
550. ♂171 in (")	620. Out w/ fecal sac
720. ♂173 in	727. Out.
730. ♀176 in	740. Out
1105. ♀247 in (insects)	1120. Out
1220. ♂171 in	1245. Out w/ fecal sac
1500. ♀? in	1510. Out.
1715. ♂171 in	1735. Out w/ fecal sac
1835. ♀176 in	1855. Out
2710. ♀247 in	2750. Out.
015. ♂173 in (caterpillar)	030. Out
545. ♂171 in	610. Out w/ fecal sac
620. ♀247 in	743. Out
735. ♂173 in	815. Out.
1020. ♀176 in	1103. Out
1055. ♂173 in	1110. Out.
1655. ♀176 in	1708. Out
1745. ♂171 in	1845. Out
2255. ♂171 in	2312. Out
2820. ♂173 in	2833. Out
2845. ♂171 in	2930. Out w/ fecal sac
2935. ♀247 in	2945. Out
2947. ♀176 in	010. Out
155. ♂173 in	225. Out w/ fecal sac
810. ♂171 in	1140. Out
1146. ♀247 in	1155. Out.
1200. ♀176 in	1208. Out
1212. ♂173 in	1235. Out w/ fecal sac
1830. ♂173 in	1848. Out.
1855. ♂171 in	1915. Out.
1920. ♀176 in	1930. Out.
2040. ♀247 in	2050. Out
2245. ♀176 in	2255. Out
2445. ♂173 in	2505. Out

000. Leaving

BIRD	#TRIPS	#F.S. Removed
♀247	8	0
♀176	13	0
♂171	12	8
♂173	18	4
?(♀)	1	0
TOTAL	52	12

watched for 180 minutes

23 May 1445-1700 Nest watch

1448. ♂171 in. — A ♀ out.
1450. ♀176 in. — ♀ out. ♂ out
1456. ♀247 in. — ♀ out
1506. ♂173 in. — ♂ out with fecal sac
1508. ♀176 in.
1511. ♂171 in. — ♀ out
1517. ♀247 in. — ♀ out
1520. ♂171 in.
1525. ♀176 in.
1530. ♀247 in. — ♂ out
* Both ♀♀ inside.
1531. — ♀ out
1534. ♂171 in. — ♀ out [♀176 seen]
1538. ♀247 in. — ♀ out.
1545. ♀176 in.
1546. — ♂ out (♂171)
1552. ♂173 in. — ♂ out
1553.
1554. ♂173 in. — ♀ out (♀176)
1558. ♀176 in. — ♀ out
1600. ♀176 in.
1601. — ♀ out
1613. ♀176 in.
1622. ♂171 in. — ♀ out
1623. ♀247 in. — ?
1624. — ? ? out
1624. ♀176 in.
1625. — ♂ out
1625. ♀247 in. — ? ?
1630. ♂171 in. — ♀ out ♂ out
1632. ♂173 in. — ♂ out
1635. ♀247 in. — ♀ out
1637. ♂171 in.
1638. ♀176 in. — ♀ out. ♂ out
1640.
1640. ♂173 in.
1641. ♀176 in. — ♀ out ♂ out
1641. ♀247 in. — ♀ out
1642. ♀176 in.
1652. ♂171 in. — ♀176 out
1655.
1657. ♂173 in. — ♂ out
1657. ♀247 in — ♂ out
1700. Leaving

Bird	Total # trips to nest	# times F.S. removed
♀247	9	0
♀176	11	0
♂171	8	0
♂173	6	1
Total	34	1
Minutes watched	135	

24 May 1000-1300 Nest watch

1000. Watching
1003. ♂173 in. — ♀ out
1014. ♀176 in. — ♂ out.
1020. ♂171 in. — ♀ out
1026. ♀247 in. — ♂ out
1027. ♂173 in. — ♀ out with fecal sac (♀247)
1029.
1033. ♀247 in. — ♂ out with fecal sac (♂173)
1035. ♀176 in. — ♀ out
1036. ♂171 in.
1042. — ♂ out
1052. ♀247 in. — ♀ out
1102. ♂171 in.
1104. — ♀ out.
1107. ♀176 in. — ♂ out.
1110. ♂173 in. — ♀247 ♂ out
1115. ♀247 in. — ♀ out.
1118. ♀247 in. — ♂ out (173)
1120. ♀176 in.
1123. — ♀ out with fecal sac (♀247)
1130. ♂171 in. — ♀ out.
1133. ♀247 in. — ♂ out with fecal sac. (♂171)
1142. ♂171 in. — ♀ out
1145. ♀176 in. — ♂ out
1146. ♂173 in. — ♀ out
1148. ♀247 in. — ♂ out
1155. ♀176 in. — ♀ out
1207. ♂171 in.
1209. — ♂ out
1210. ♂173 in.
1212. — ♀ out
1212. ♂171 in. — ♂ out
1217. ♀176 in. — ♂ out
1221. ♀247 in.
1223. — ♀ out with fecal sac (♀247)
1227. ♀247 in. — ♀176 out.
1235. ♂171 in. — ♀ out
1237. ♀176 in. — ♂ out
1240. ♀247 in. — ?
1244. ♂173 in. — ? ♀ out.
1251. — ♀ out.
1252. ♂171 in. — ♂ out.
1258. ♀176 in. — ♂ out.
1259. ♀247 in. — ♀ out.
1300. Leaving

Bird	Trips to Nest	# times F.S. Rem
♀247	11	3
♀176	9	0
♂171	9	1
♂173	6	1
TOTAL	35	5
Minutes watched	180	

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blonquist Hastings Reservation

4 June Watched feedings from 950-1250. Birds were feeding almost exclusively insects (1 trip with acorns seen), especially those big black beetles which I couldn't identify for sure. I did climb up to an anvil afterwards, however, and recover numerous legs and elytra, so hopefully I'll be able to soon. Compilation is on the back.

Note: the large black beetles are definitely Carabids. (probably genus Calosoma). In the annex is a specimen seemingly identical to this beast labelled as a Calosoma semilaeve. Fresh wt. of one of these beasts was .55gm.

10 June 1730. Got the babies, 4 of whom made it, to band (as #448 to 451) and bleed. Year grand total now 11.

11 June 1720. Being worried about the kids (all 4 of whom I left to descend the 65cm deep nest hole on their own) I went up and checked them: all 4 are fine.

15 June Watched the nest today from 1325-1625. No surprises except at the very end, when an intruder was chased briefly in the nest tree, after which ♀ UWDB #260 from 1800 showed up at the nesthole and bantered with the begging babies for 30 seconds (never making it inside the hole) before being discovered and chased away. See compilation on back.

she stayed at the lip the entire time, dipping in several times but not, seemingly, making it through the babies begging just inside the hole. She appeared to peek at them as she tried to dip into the hole.

16 June Watched the nest today for the final time from 745-945 (the babies are quite close to fledging. Compilation is on the back of p.7.

4 June 950-1250 Nestwatch (stopwatch time)

In (i = with insects)	Out (fs = with fecal sac)
0.00. watching	
10.20. ♂173	1055
1125. ♀247 (with Acrobats)	1520 (fs)
1740. ♂173 (i)	1755.
2150. ♂173 (i)	2205.
2330. ♂173	2340.
2535. ♂173 (i*)	2550.
2745. ♂171 (i)	2815 (fs)
- 205. ♂171 (i*)	305 (fs)
845. ♀176	935.
940. ♂173	948
1035. ♂171 (i)	1010 (fs)
1418. ♂171 (i)	2325.
2330. ♀176 (i)	2340.
2350. ♀247 (i)	2500.
- 115. ♂171 (i)	150.
620. ♂173 (i)	630.
750. ♂173 (i)	825.
1555. ♂173 (i)	1635
2030. ♂173 (i)	2045.
2500. ♂173 (i*)	2515.
2740. ♂173 (i)	2756.
- 050. ♂173 (i)	100.
745. ♂173 (i)	825 (fs)
1400. ♀247 (i)	1425.
1720. ♂171 (i)	1750 (fs)
- 525. ♂173 (i)	535.
900. ♂171 (i)	930 (fs)
925. ♀176	940.
1050. ♀176	1105.
1535. ♀176	1545.
1740. ♀176	1750.
1800. ♂171	1830. (fs)
2315. ♀176 (i)	2330.
- 310. ♂173 (i)	335. (fs)
720. ♂173 (i)	750.
755. ♂171	955.
945. ♂173	1000.
1215. ♂173	1225.
1310. ♂173 (i)	1320.
1325. ♂171	1350.
1415. ♂171 (i)	1505.
1508. ♀176 (i)	1518.
1905. ♂171	1940. (fs)
2505. ♀176	2525.
- 000. Leaving	

*fed big black beetle (Cambridge)

Bird	#times in Nest	#times fs. removed
♀247	3	1
♀176	9	0
♂171	12	7
♂173	20	2
Total	44	10

Minutes watched: 180

15 June 1325-1625 Nestwatch

[a], [i] = fed acorns, insects.
all are in except as noted by d = dip

At hole	Leaves
000. watching	
630. ♀247 d	635.
1325. ♂173 d	1330
1335. ♂171 d	1338.
1350. ♂171	1600.
1635. ♂173 d	1643.
550. ♀176	600.
705. ♀247	715.
740. ♀?	750.
1005. ♀176	1015.
1520. ♂173 [i]	1530.
1800. ♂171 [a]	1830. w/ fs
2515. ♀247 [i] d	2540.
2750. ♂173 [i]	2800.
015. ♀247 [i] d	035.
038. ♂173 d	042.
125. ♂173	137.
935. ♀247	1000.
1850. ♀176 [a] d	1900.
1930. ♀176	1940.
2055. ♀176 d	2105.
2220. ♂171 d	2230.
2555 ♂171 d	2635. w/ fs
2730. ♂173 [i]	2745.
2925. ♂171	2950. w/ fs
135. ♂173 [i]	148.
1150. ♂173	1200.
+½hr → 1205. ♀247 [i]	1215.
1855. ?	1905.
1910. ♂171	1915.
2045. ♀176 d	2050.
2120. ♂173 d	2125.
2230. ♀176	2238.
2245. ♂171	2255.
2320. ♀176	2325.
2325. ♂173 [a] d	2330
2515. ♀176 [a]	2530.
2615. ♀176 d	2620.
2620. ♂173 d	2623.
2635. ♂173 d	2640.
2705. ♂173 [a]	2720.
2820. ♂173	2832.
2900. ♂173	2935.
300. ♀?	310.
2710. ♂173	2810.
000. Chase of an intruder	
100. ♀260 (from 1800) at nest hole. see notes.	

Bird	#times fed	#times f.s. removed
♀247	6	0
♀176	10	0
♂171	8	3
♂173	17	0
?	3 (29, 1?)	0
Total	44	3

Minutes watched: 180

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blowquist — Hastings Reservation

19 June 1530. Counted stores: 270.

14 July j448 seen down at 1520.

27 July 820. Watching.

835. Argh. Birds not here. Will try again shortly.

1100. Stores here are on the low side but there are definitely some left; I counted 91.

Several of the birds (at least) are over ~~on~~ in the forest edge toward Blomone, no doubt sapsucking.

4 August 820. Searching around here. One bird: ①j LG-Blk/Blk-LG prob. #451; in the savanna below the granary. Yes → ①j Blk/LG #451.

840. Oh well - other birds down sapsucking, but I couldn't identify them. I got one more, at least.

31 August 1430. No birds seen here in passing and ○ stores.

1515. On the way back, ①j M/ Wh-Dk/ #448 and ②♀ Wh-Dk/Red #247 seen down atop the perch tree.

1523. ③♀ Yel/Blk #176 over in the sap area along with everyone else.

1540. ♀176 down near Soto Springs in the forest behind the cabin along with at least one Lower Hay bird (♀391).

11 September See Blomone notes about the fate of ♂301, who looks as though he moved (back in Dec. 1976!) to Blomone along with ♂246 and ♂300.

14 September Ron Mumme watched here for an hour late this afternoon and saw all 4 adults - storing furiously [Ron reports about 300 stores already!]. He saw no babies, but did find the leg and remains of j451 (leg complete with Black/Green color bands) out on the ground in the open away from

16 June 745-945 Nestwatch
[a], [i]=fed acorns, insects
all dips except as noted by "in"

At Nest	Leaves	
000. watching		
1245. ♂171	1250.	
1600. ♀176	1605.	
1610. ♂173	1620.	
2610. ♀247 [i]*	2618	*chrysoptera? + other
1945. ♀176 [i]	2005.	
2140. ♂173	2148.	
2325. ♀176 [a]	2335.	
2345. ♂173	2350.	
105. ♀176	112.	
200. ♂?	210.	
445. ♀176 [a]	455.	
830. ♂171	835.	
835. ♀247	840.	
1010. ♂173	1013.	
1045. ♂171	1049.	
1415. ♂173 in	1422.	
1430. ♀247 [i]	1440.	
1510. ♂173 in	1520.	
1730. ♀176 [a]	1736.	
1745. ♀247	1750.	
1925. ♂171	1928.	
2030. ♂171	2045.	
2048. ♀247 [i]	2052.	
2125. ♂173	2145.	
2210. ♂171	2230.	
2320. ♂171 in	2405. w/fs	
2535. ♀176 in [i]	2550.	
2815. ♀247 [i]	2835	
2837. ♀176 [i]	2843.	
025. ♀176 [i] in	043.	
130. ♂173	135.	
430. ♀176	435.	
455. ♂173	505.	
900. ♂173	904.	
910. ♀176	914.	
1100. ♀176	1102.	
1110. ♀247	1113.	
1410. ♂171	1417.	
1530. ♀? in	1538.	
1710. ♂173 in	1722.	
2040. ♀176 [i]* in	2053.	*Carabid (Calosoma)
2115. ♀247 [i] in	2140.	
2650. ♂173 in	2700.	
2745. ♀247 [i]* in	2757.	*Carabid.
2820. ♂171 in	2845. w/fs	
000. leaving		

Bird	# times fed	# times f.s. removed
♀247	9	0
♀176	13	0
♂171	9	2
♂173	12	0
?	2 (1♂, 1♀)	0
Total	45	2

Minutes watched: 120

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

(14 September) any trees on Hastings side. A hawk seems the likely culprit, perhaps ~~hopping the remains~~ pulling off the feathers and the leg on the ground after nailing him. Ah well. In any case, storing is on, and these birds at least do have acorns! See Doris notes for more details.

Purge: ♀451. Last seen 4 August, found dead (not at all fresh, at least as far as I could tell) on 14 September → Found dead, died about 25 August ± 2 weeks.

15 September 1030. Watching for storing and the babies.

1036. Adults are definitely storing in force: 3 trips already! ① ♂ Or-Yel/Red #171 seen. Birds are getting the acorns either from or at least in the direction of their sap area. ② ♀ Yel/Blk #176; ③ ♀ Wh-DP/Or #247. ④ ♂ Or/Blk #173. At least 3 more trips by 1045.

1100. Watched a juv (dark eye) Or/Wh #449 (most likely) sitting in the fallen limb of the granary for several minutes before leaving. (She)? had been in the granary prior ~~to~~ to this, but does not seem to be participating much in storing. This bird still had a red crown but the light sometimes made the front look dark and it may be molting to a ♀.

1115. Leaving to count stores. There are babies here, but they clearly are not in to storing as yet.

Stores: 1040 (!) already (note that there were 0 ~~as~~ at least as recently as 31 August). These birds are really into the spirit!

On the way back I went through the sap area, finding several birds and seeing them fly out toward the granary with acorns picked from somewhere in here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

16 September I must admit that one other odd thing happened here yesterday which I didn't record: I walked over to the nest hole and checked below it (thinking I might find a trace of more lost ~~nest~~ fledglings) and instead found a living, furry, apparently newborn woodrat. This seemed suspicious enough that I returned this afternoon and opened the hole, where I found another, identical, but dead baby Woodrat (identification is still to be checked, however) but otherwise no indication of rodent inhabitation in or at the bottom of the hole. Out of the several hypotheses, ~~three~~ two are particularly likely: 1) the woodrat, for some reason out of a place to live, ran in here and gave birth; then left for some reason not related to the birds. 2) The rat, with a nest elsewhere, found the hole, decided to move her babies in, either found woodpeckers inside or was confronted with them later on, probably brought two and then gave up. One was subsequently tossed out by the birds (alive); the 2nd remained inside and starved.

It certainly would be worth checking to make sure these birds are still roosting here.

22 September 850. Watching from hide. Birds, by the way are not roosting in the nest hole (are instead roosting in the old granary on HN+HK).

900. Several adults are chasing jays from the roost tree.

903. ♂ Or·Red/Or #171. No storing yet, but lots of inter-sp. chasing. ③ ♀ Yel/Blk #176. ③ j Red·Blk/Wh #449 playing hard to see off on the side. ④ ♀ Wh-DP/Or #247 plus ♂171 now in granary working stores. ⑤ j M/Da-La #450 (! yea!) over on the side. ⑥ ♂ Or/Blk #173.

925. The birds (up to 3 at once) are really chasing those jays.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

(22 September) 930. The babies are definitely avoiding (or whatever) the granary.

935. Birds are storing a fair amount now.

950. Leaving. Babies are quite hard to see, spending all their time off on the periphery. But all 3 are probably here (j448, at least, was seen 31 Aug. even though I didn't see him today).

18 October. See School Hill notes.

Counted stores: 1511.

4 November 1130. Watching.

1155. ♂ ~~or yel~~ #171 retraction: ♂ Or/Blk #173.

1210. ② ♂ GWh-D/Or #247.

Counted stores: 1369. Not bad, but clearly things can only go downhill from here.

5 November 1050. Watching again.

1120. Both ♀♀ here: ① ♀ Yel/Blk #176 and ② ♀ 247.

1145. ③ ♂ Or/Blk #173.

1220. Leaving. Absolutely no sign of any babies here any more. Other adults probably all still here.

For the last 20 min. or so ♂ Or/M (173, probably) has been pecking away inside one of the roost holes here in the Valley Oak up on Hastings above their granary.

16 November While walking up here this afternoon I saw 3-4 birds flying around here, one of whom was ♂ Or RW #307 (who was seen flying to the forest and then out with an acorn).

25 November ♀♀ 247, 176, and ♂ 173 seen here by Ron Mumme. Looks bad for ♂ 171.

30 November Purge: j448. Last seen 31 August, gone by 15 September →

Dis. abt. 7 September ± 1 week.

j449 and j450. Both last seen 22 September, gone by 5 November → Dis. abt. 14 Oct. ± 2 wks.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist Hastings Reservation

(30 November) Finally: ♂171. last seen 18 October, gone by (at School Hill)
4 November → Dis. abt. 26 Oct. ± 1 wk.

This group is still intact with 1♂ (173) and the 2♀♀ (247 and 176).

31 December Counted stores: 1012.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack Hastings Reservation

3 January Collected a sample of 100 acorns from the granary. The main tree here lost lots of small peripheral branches in the storm, but apparently no storage areas. What did fall was the top of the remaining Upper Haystack tree, where these birds used to perch a lot. It also did in fact still contain about 250 holes at the top, which contained about 80 acorns.

13 February 1115. Watching. 1120. Starting to rain.

1130. Several here getting acorns: ①♂Yel-Blk/ #390, ②♂OrR #307, ③♀wn-Blk/wh #170. ④♀LG/M #391. ⑤♂DBRW #309.

1315. Leaving. The above 5 birds were around several times during the period. I have no idea what's up with the other 2. (The ub♀ has always been hard to see, but ♂236 has always been rather easy, even without his wingstreamer. Both could be off somewhere else, I suppose. ♀170 has been doing most of the defense of the granary, chasing titmice, etc.)

15 February 1745. I flushed 3 birds (and there were probably more) from a hitherto unknown hole low in the '75 nest tree.

24 February 1045. Watching.

1050. ①♂OrRW #307 here to displace a Titmouse.

1100. Now ②♀LG/wh #391. ③♀wh-DB/ #170.

1125. ④♂DBRW #309.

1135. Leaving. Too cold today. Still no sign of ♂236!

I declined to count acorns here for the moment, but there are many, and so sign of any significant depletion for the moment.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

19 March — Counted stores: Main tree: 3267; 2° tree: 81 } 3348

It is a beautiful sunny day and the birds are not far away being somewhat more vocal and conspicuous here than usual.

13 April — 1335. Nobody seen here in holes or out. Several brand new holes in the rotten trunk of the 2° tree that may be usable for roosting, at least.

16 April — 1800. Flushed 2 birds from the storage area but saw nobody in any holes anywhere.

21 April — 1750. Noone found looking out of any holes anywhere.

26 April — 820. Watching.

830. 3-4+ birds appeared; possibly an intruder. ♀ tub here in UH tree - but looks rather wary - left leg normal - I bet she's not the same one as was here before.

835. ♀ Red-wn/Da-la ? in Main tree. Who's this??

840. 1 or more of the birds sapsucking in the area towards the '75 nest tree.

848. Now in UH tree: ②♂DBRW #309 plus a ♀.

858. ③ ♂ DrRW #307. The above banded ♀ must have been ④♀ R-w-B/wn #170. The birds are also quite busy here eating oak buds off the Blue Oaks.

930. Looks like someone just flew over to the '75 nest hole or thereabouts.

950. There is a ♂ here with no WS, but I haven't been able to get him yet. A bird just flew to the '75 nest hole again.

1003. ④♂ tel- #390. ♀ R-w-B/M #170 finally seen well.

1120. Leaving, after another frustrating 1½ hours.

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Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(26 April) I daresay this is an enigmatic situation at the moment, given that at least ♂236 is gone, and possibly the ub ♀ as well. No new ♂♂ are here, leaving only 2 1976 ♂♂ and 1 from 1977. It will be interesting to see what becomes of this situation. As for the ♀♀, ♀170 (from 1975) remains; also I did see an unbanded ♀ when I was first here who (for the time being), I have to assume is "the" ub ♀ (hopefully later I'll get good looks at her legs and be able to make a good decision based on that.) Hopefully they will nest (they may already have started somewhere in the '75 nest tree) and then I'll be able to get a better idea of what's going on here.

5 May 1400. Noone in any holes; 1 bird heard over on the knoll near the fenceline. Counted stores: 2430 (all in main tree).

7 May 1030. Nobody in any of the standard holes, but possibly something in the Valley Oak up from the '75 nest tree.

8 May 1710. Nobody in any holes here.

10 May 1515. Noone in any holes.

17 May 1050. Finally flushed a bird from a likely looking hole in the tree at the edge of the clearing between the granary and the '75 nest tree. One more time and I open it.

18 May 1600. Returned and, flushing another bird, opened the hole (a definite problem with no ladder!). But the reward was 4 fresh eggs - which means I can now return and watch in order to find out who the frig is in this group!

19 May 645. Watching the nest.

715. Several birds around, but noone to the nest yet. Some Carricking and the like as well. I may more soon (go to p. 5)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

17 May 1050 — Bird flushed from hole

18 May 1600 — Hole opened, 4 eggs, fresh:

① 27.2 × 20.6

② 28.3 × 20.3

③ 27.2 × 20.4

④ 27.7 × 19.1

21 May 1445 — 4 eggs.

30 May 1415 — 3 babies - young (1-2 days old)

No sign of unhatched egg or 4th baby

	①460	②461	③462
21 June 1200	84.2 (84mm)	92.3 (97)	85.2 (94)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(19 May) 740. Moved out a ways from the forest. Still watching the nest area.

~~730~~ 755. ♀ub here quickly displaced by ①♂ R-W-B/M #170.

813. ②♂ M/or #307 and ③♂ Yel-Blk/Red- #390.

840. ④♂ B-W/M #309.

935. Moved back over to the nest.

945. Leaving. This isn't working out.

This group could be a tough problem, but it's got to be worked out. In any case, both ♂236 and ♀391 appear to be gone.

21 May 1445. Bird flushed from the hole, which still has 4 eggs.

22 May 900. Watching nest. ♂ in hole.

938. The bird inside (a ♂) replaced by ①♂ OrRW #307.

1011. ♂ replaced by ②♀ R-W-B/M / wn #170.

1026. ③♂ DBRW #309 came to the hole, looked in, and left.

1036. ♂ in hole now. ♂307 came again but left without going inside.

1100. Both ♀170 and ♂307 at the hole; ♂307 going in while ♀ leaves.

1102. ♂309 at hole; leaves. 1105. ♀170 at hole again; leaves.

1125. Leaving. Looks disturbingly as though the nucleus of this group is indeed composed of ♀170 and ♂♂307, 309! No sign of ♂236 or of an unbanded ♀.

PURGE: ♂236. Last seen 25 Oct. 1977. Gone by 13 February.
→ Disappeared about 19 December 1977 ± 1 month.

25 June. No-seen here 24 June see notes.

♀391. Last seen 24 Feb. 1978. Gone by 26 April.
→ Disappeared about 26 March ± 1 month.

30 May Watched the nest from 1115 to 1345 (see back for compilation). Only 4 birds seen were ♀170, ♂307, ♂309, ♂390. Hmm. One for long contemplation. Went up to the nest after watching

30 May Nest Watch 1115-1345

1115. ♂ in hole
1126. ♂ leaves
1135. ♂309 in with food.
1230. ♂390 in. ♂309 leaves.
↳ brought caterpillar.
1233. ♂309 in. ♂390 left.
1235. ♂ out
1235. ♀170 in. 1242. Out
1246. ♀170 in.
1249. ♂309 in. ♀ out.
1250. ♂ out.
1251. ♂309 in. out w/ fecal sac 1251.5
1252. ♂309 in with bee? out 1253 w/ fecal sac.
1253. ♂309 in. out 1253.3
1254. ♂309 in. out 1259.
1259. ♀170 in w/ insects
1301. ♂309 in. ♀ out
1302. ♂307 here but did not go in. ♂309 out
1304. ♀170 in w/ insects. out 1311
1324. ♂309 in. out 1330
1330. ♀170 in. out 1331
1331. ♂307 in. out 1338?
1338. ♀170 in. out 1345
1345. ♂307 in.
1345. Leaving

BIRD	TRIPS	#TIMES FECAL SACS REMOVED
♀170	6	0
♂307	2	0
♂309	9	2
♂390	1	0
TOTAL	18	2

Minutes watched: 150

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(30 May) (the birds had been feeding young) but the babies were very young and were not banded. There were only 3, and I could find no trace of an unhatched egg (the nest was otherwise littered with eggshells) so I suspect that all hatched but one faded already.

3 June Watched today from 945-1230. Things were very slow, but everyone did show up and the nest is still on. See back for a compilation.

6 June Made another watch today from 745-1125 (220 minutes). See back for compilation. Things were still slow, but not quite as bad as last time.

9 June 2000. Watched carefully at dusk tonight: About 1945 the ♂ originally (since ~1930) in the hole was replaced by ♂307; about 1 minute later he was replaced by ♂309, and then, finally, about 1952 he was again replaced by ♂307, who remained in the hole undisturbed to 2000, by which time it was quite dark and I left.

13 June Watched here this evening from 1605-1835. See back for a compilation. ♂309 has lost his wing-streamers.

19 June Watched the nest from 1330-1500, but got no feedings; only 2 visits to the lip of the hole by ♂307 before departing w/o having dipped into the hole or fed. Going up to it, I was unable to confirm anybody being in it. Thus, it may have failed. In any case, this certainly doesn't appear to be the afternoon to watch it.

Counted stores: 1387 (all in Maintree).

3 June Nestwatch 945-1230

0.00. Watching
0.00. Nothing yet
15.05. ♂ in hole left.
1510. ♂390 in.
1715. ♂309 in.
1725. ♂ out
2900. ♂ out.
0.00. ♀ at hole - went in (♀170) after eating her food herself!
140. ♂307 in
420. ♀170 out.
745. ♂390 at hole, then left.
2550. ♂ out.
620. ♂307 in Bird out - 1 feeding missed.
1110. ♂ out.
1735. ♀170 in.
1215. ♂390 in. ♀? out.
1500. Leaving

Bird	# visits in Nest
♀170	2
♂307	2
♂309	1
♂390	2
?	1
TOTAL	8
Minutes watched	165

No fecal sacs seen removed.

13 June 1605-1835

[i]; [a] = fed insects/acorns

In	Out
000. Watching ♂ in hole.	
2830. ♂ left. ♀170 at hole but did not feed.	
1400. ♀170 w/ Moth but did not feed.	
1515. ♂390	2430.
2430. ♂307	2505. w/ fs
400. ♂309	405.
530. ♂309	535.
550. ♀170	620.
650. ♂309.	700.
745. ♂307	805
755. ♀170 [a]	815?
805. ♂309	825
1115. ♂309	1120.
1136. ♂390	1200
1200. ♂309	1220
1315. ♂309	1505
1700. ♂309	1705
2350. ♂309	2405
2420. ♂307 [a]	2500
2430. ♂390	2500
2500. ♀170	2536.
2955. ♂390	015
625. ♂309	645
745. ♂307	755
2645. ♀170 [a]	2710. w/ fs
800. ♂307 [a]	820. w/ fs
000. Leaving	

Bird	# times fed	# times fs removed
♀170	4	1
♂307	5	2
♂309	10	0
♂390	4	0
Total	23	3

Minutes watched: 150

6 June 745-1125 Nestwatch

0.00. Watching. ♂ in hole.
000. ♂ still in hole.
1945. ♀170 at hole with food but did not feed. ♂ left.
000. Still nothing (time 845)

1235. ♂309 in.	1255. Out.
1850. ♂309 in.	1900. Out.
2430. ♂309 in.	2445 ".
200. ♂309 in.	210. "
520. ♂309 in.	535. ".
935. ♂309 in (w/ insects)	945. "
1110. ♂309 in (" ")	1125. ".
2200. ♂309 in (" ")	2210. ".
2215. ♀170 in (" ")	2315. ".
2330. ♂309. in	2345. ".
2920. ♂309 in (" ")	2950. Out w/ fecal sac
900. ♂309. in (" ")	♀940. " " " "
1655. ♂309 in	1930. Out.
1930. ♀170 in (w/ insects)	2445. Out.
245. ♂390 in. (" ")	610. "
530. ♀170 in.	835 "
1000. ♂? in	
1030. ♂307, leaves w/o feeding	
2200. ♂390 in.	915. Out.
1510. ♂390 in.	1545. ".
1600. ♂309 in.	2145 "
2145. ♂390 in (w/ insects)	2215 ".
2340. ♂390 in.	2440. Out w/ f.s.
2515. ♂309 in	2600. Out?
2540. ♂307 in	520. Out?
105. ♂309 in (w/ insects)	555. Out?
520. ♂390 in (w/ insects)	820. Out?

1000. Leaving.

BIRD	# FEEDINGS	# F.S. Removed
♀170	3	0
♂307	1	0
♂309	15	2
♂390	6	1
?[♂]	1	0
Total	26	3

Minutes watched: 220

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Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(19 June) 2000. Returned to watch at dusk at 1930. At least 3 birds (♀, ♂ no WS, and ♂ 307) made 6 or more brief forays to the hole as dark approached, but once again it was ♂307 (Or RW) who was the last bird to go in and, best I could tell, spend the night in the nest. Also, the nest clearly lives.

20 June Tried to watch again beginning at 1045. After 66 minutes ♂390 came, followed several minutes later by ♂307, but neither went in the hole, apparently still being freaked by my presence. So I moved the green hide over to here, left, and will try again tomorrow.

21 June 1100-1200. Watched again for an hour with no trips to the nest at all! This time, ready to band, I went up and checked them out - all 3 are fine! So I banded them as #460, 461, and 462 and returned to the hide at 1300 to watch a while longer.

1330. Giving up again. The feeding rate here must surely be some sort of record low.

22 June Watched the nest from 650-1020, finally getting some feedings. See compilation on back.

23 June Watched the nest from 1740-1940 (see compilation on back) and then stuck around to dusk, when for the 3rd straight time it was ♂307 who spent the night in the nest.

24 June Watched the nest again in the evening from 1850-1950 and then for roosting. First of all, ♂307 again spent the night in the nest, making it 4 straight and pretty certain that he's the man in charge of the night shift. He roosted at 2002.

22 June 650-1020 Nestwatch
all trips except as noted by "in"
[i], [a] = fed insects, acorns

At hole	Leaves
000. Watching	
1100. ♂309	1108.
1630. ♂390	1637.
1710. ♂309	1715.
400. ♂309	405.
600 ♂309	604.
615. ♂307	635.
1200. ♂307 [i]	1218
1430. ♂390	1445.
1450. ♂307	1455.
1510. ♂309	1514.
1300. ♂307	1308.
1245. ♂309	1300.
2930. ♂390	2940.
2940. ♂309	2945.
010. ♂307	013.
100. ♂390	105.
915. ♂307	920.
1720. ♂390	1728.
1730. ♀170	1735.
2425. ♂390	2433.
2900. ♂390	2905?
2930? ♂309	2935?
725. ♂390	726.
730. ♂307	733.
745. ♂309	748.
1045. ♂390	1050.
2000. ♂307	2005.
2010. ♂309	2014.
2025. ♀170	2031.
2500. ♀170 in	2512.
2950. ♀170 in	2957.
050. ♂390	057.
110. ♂307	113.
135. ♂390	140.
530. [redacted] ?	533.
540. ♂307	543.
805. ♀170	810.
000. Leaving	

Bird	# times fed
♀170	5
♂307	10
♂309	10
♂390	[redacted]11
?	1
Total	37

No fecal sacs seen removed
Watched 210 minutes

23 June 1740-1940
Nestwatch

000. Watching	
850. ♂390	854.
900. ♂307	904.
910. ♂309	925.
1315. ♂390	1320.
040. ♂390	048.
605. ♂307	609.
650. ♂307 [a]	715.
000.	
1010. ♂390	1013.
1315. ♂307 in	1335. w/ fs.
1600 ♂? in	1610. w/ fs.
1650 ♂309 [a]	1657.
1700. ♂307	1707
1710. ♀170	1717.
1805. ♀170	1808.
1812. ♂390	1815.
2615. ?	2625.?
015. ♂390	018.
018. ♀170	023.
105. ♂309 in	138. w/ fs
130. ♀170. [a]	140.
240. ♂[redacted]307 [a]	244.
245. ♂309 in	255. w/ fs.
335. ♂309 in	415. w/ fs
440. ♀170	455.
515. ♂307	522.
700. ♂307 in	800. w/ fs.
915. ♀170	920.
1100. ♂309 in	1130. w/ fs
1155. ♂390	1200.
1300 ♂390	1310.
1515. ♂390 [a]	1530.
1625 ♂309	1628.
1745. ♂309	1749.
1850. ♂390	1894.
2230. ♀170	2240
2420. ♂307 in	2700. w/ fs?
000. Done with feeding trips.	

Bird	# feedings	# times fs removed
♀170	7	0
♂307	9	3
♂309	8	4
♂390	10	0
? (♂, ?)	2	1 (♂)
Total	36	8

watched 120 minutes

24 June 1850-1950
Nestwatch

000. Watching	
1130. ♂390	1136.
1140. ♂307 [i]	1145.
1300. ♂390	1303.
1730. ♂307	1734.
2050. ♂307 [a] in	2105. w/ fs
2440. ♂307 [i]	2448.
105. ♂390	110.
510. ♂307	520.
520. ♀170	524.
525. ♂390	529.
730. ♀170	734.
915. ♀170	920.
1000. ♀170 [a]	1007.
1300. ♀391 at hole - see notes. Did not feed.	
1320. ♂307	1325.
1500. Off stopwatch.	

More feeding trips (1935-1950):
♂307) III
♂390)
♀170) II
♂309) I

Bird	# times fed	# times f.s. removed
♀170	6	0
♂307	9	1
♂309	1	0
♂390	4	0
♀391	0 (at hole once)	
Total	20	1

Minutes watched: 60

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(24 June) Second, the compilation for the watch is on the back of p. 7. Thirdly, a very unexpected visit occurred at 1935, when ♀ (LG/wh) #391, ♀ LG/M, who I'd previously given up as lost, appeared at the hole. She landed apparently without any food and did not feed. After about 5 seconds a second bird landed nearby, ♀391 began to move from the hole, and at that point was actually pecked several times ~~by~~ in an attack by the 2nd bird, who I believe was ♀170. In any case, ♂307 then fed at the hole while [♀170] left and ♀391 moved to the top of the limb, where she sat for >15 seconds unmolested until she flew off. From these events I conclude the following 1) ♀391 lives 2) she is having essentially nothing to do with the nest, and 3) this may it part be due to ~~some~~ hostility toward her on the part of ♀170, for unknown and possibly unfathomable reasons.

Thus this unique group is composed of 5 birds - all former progeny on this territory: 1♀ from 1975, 2♂♂ from 1976, and a ♂+♀ from 1977.

25 June Watched the nest from 715-1045; see compilation on back. No sign of ♀391 today.

Purge: ♀ ub (Yellowish Right leg). This bird, ~~was~~ apparently the same ♀ as here since at least 1975, was seen 25 May 1977, 4 July 1977, and lastly on 29 August 1977. She was possibly seen on 10 October 1977. She was then missed on 25 Oct 1977 and then on 13 Feb. 1978. For ~~an~~ entropy's sake I'll assume the latter as thus give her a Disappeared About 11 December 1977 ± 2 months.

27 July 840. Watching.

925. An ub ♂ (intruder, presumably) was here briefly.

25 June 715-1045
Nestwatch
[a], [i] = fed acorns, insects

At hole	Leaves
000. watching	
2330. ♂390	2335.
2430. ♂307 [i]	2433,
2435. ♂390	2439
2515. ♂390	2518.
545. ♂390	552.
740. ♂309	745.
1020. ♂307 [i]	1025.
1055. ♀170	1058.
1105. ♂390	1110.
1125. ♂390	1130.
1155. ♂307	1158.
2150. ♂307	2153,
945. ♂390	955.
958. ♂307	1003.
1555. ♂307	1600.
1600. ♀170	1607.
1700, ♀170	1705.
2210. ♂390	2215.
2350, ♂307	2355.
2430. ♂390	2433,
2500. ♂390	2503,
240. ♂390	244.
325 ♂307	405.
410. ♂309	415.
550. ♀170	556.
615. ♂307	620.
650. ♂390	654.
2330. ♂390	2333.
2340. ♀170	2343.
2455. ♂390	2525.
2250. ♂309	2253.
2420. ♂390	2423.
2530. ♂390	2533.
2730. ♂390	2733.
400. ♂309	408.
1455. ♂307	459.
1220. ♂390	1223.
1240. ♂307	1243,
1255. ♂307	1303.
1415. ♂390	1420.
1810. ♀170	1815.
1835. ♂309	1838.
2425. ♂307	2430.
2440. ?	2443
2605. ♂390	2608.
600. ♂309 [a]	605.
605. ♀170	608.
620. ♂307	623
655 ♂390	658.
1310. ♂307	1313.
1340. ♂390	1343.
1410. ♀170	1413.
1830. ♀170	1833.
1835. ♂307	1838.
2450. ♂307	2453.
000. leaving	

Bird	# times fed
♀170	9
♂307	17
♂309	6
♂390	22
?	1

Total feedings: 55
No f.s. removed
Minutes watched: 210
♂391 not seen

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Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(27 July) 940. Walked over to '75 nest area: ① j RB-WN(W)/ #462.

945. At least one bird here sapsucking.

1000. Now ② ♀ LG/WN #391 sapsucking here. j462 still here also.

1007. ③ j Mauve/Red #460. Good! This bird also sapsucking.

1028. j460 and 462 now over in the granary together. Leaving to walk over there.

Counted stores: 991. Not bad. The adults have mostly disappeared - a continuing bad habit of theirs. Some calls from far out over the knoll above ~~Hall~~ Maggie's may indicate that they're there, but who knows? In any case, I did get 2 of the 3 babies, which is as good as I've done anywhere so far.

4 August 745. Trying to get birds sapsucking here.

752. ① j /Red-WN #462

802. ! ② j RB-WN/LB-WN #461 here sapsucking. All 3 are here!

805. Birds are also well down the canyon here. Going to try to get babies at Hay-Blan.

810. ③ j Mauve/M #460 before I got away.

31 August 1500. Counted stores: 530, including several new, green acorns, but mostly (95%+) old.

1535. Down at "Soto Springs" I found ♀ LG/M #391 along with at least one H-B bird. These birds were not at the pond itself, but in the forest just behind the cabin.

25 September 810. Watching from hide.

815. 1 bird (♂390 I think) here briefly to displace a Magpie.

821. ♀♀ OrRW #307.

830. For the last 5 minutes I've been watching an unbanded ♀ hawking in the granary who has a necrotic Right

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(25 September) leg!! She is here amicably with ♂307, and clearly belongs here. I hesitate to say what this means, but this bird is almost surely old ♀525 "Yellowish Right Leg" who I wrote off quite a while ago. It also means that this group most likely wasn't composed entirely of old ~~nestlin~~ fledglings, that the breeding ♀ this spring may not have been ♀170, and also that this unbanded ♀, if the mother, never attended the nest at all! (Note that she does have a hard time even standing on a nearly horizontal limb).

No! see below ↓

845. I've only seen ♂307 bring 1 or 2 acorns in so far.

856. False Alarm! I finally got a look at this bird's left leg and she is, I fear, ③ ♀ Pnk-Wh-Blue/Wh #170 after all. I guess the right leg suddenly hooked onto the metal band. Arg.

900. ③ ♂ Or-Blk/M #390.

910. Leaving. Activity is none too impressive here, though ~~♂309~~ ♂307 is indeed doing some storing. I have no idea where any of the babies are hanging out; I'll have to come back again later and try for them.

Counted stores: 925 (all in main tree); verging on ½ new.

14 October Ron watched here this morning seeing only those 2 ♂♂ again (♂307, ♂390). They both were hawking, and there was little sign of any storing behavior.

4 November 1010. Watching.

1025. ① ♂ Sil-Red/Blue #390 here, hawking. All quiet.

1030. A 2nd ♂ briefly: ♂M/ probably ♂307!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — Hastings Reservation

(4 November) 1110. Well. ♂390 still here, but that's it. What's happened to everybody? The babies may very well all be gone, but surely someone besides these 2 ♂♂ ~~or~~ is still here.

Counted stores: 798 (! Holy cow - that's terrible!)

Storing is clearly all over already.

16 November ♂307 seen over at H-B today in passing.

30 November Purge: j460, j461, j462. All 3 last seen on 4 August, gone by 25 September → Dis. about 30 August ± 2 wks.

♀ ♂309. This bird was last seen doing well on 25 June, gone by 25 September → Dis. abt. 9 Aug. ± 1 month.

This group may be in even worse shape → both ♀170 and ♀391 may be gone as well - but I'll hold off on them until I watch once more.

11 December 1030. On ~~arrival~~ arrival here I found ①♂ Or RW #307 up at the top forest along with an ub ♀ and a 3rd bird.

1040. Now watching.

1050. In granary: ②♂ Yel-Blk Yel/Blk-Red #390. Joined by ♂307.

1120. Both together in granary again. ♂390 making low "chatters" in the presence of ♂307.

1250. No sign of anyone besides the 2 ♂♂. A new ♀ may be on the way, but doesn't appear to be here yet.

26 December Purge: ♀391. Last seen 31 August over by Hay-Blom (at "Soto Springs", gone by 25 Sept. ∴ Dis. About 12 Sept. ± 1 week.

♀170. Last seen 25 Sept. (injured), gone by 4 November → Dis. about 15 October ± 2 weeks.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone — Bloquist Ranch

22 April — Discovered newly-hatched babies here late this evening (about 1830). See general M. formicivorus notes.

26 April — 1200. Walked by, hearing noises out of the nest still. Also flushed a ♀ and ♂ (M/Yel or LP/DB-Red #301 from the area. A few more days and the nest should probably be opened.

1 May — 1745. Came by and sawed open the nest (with no small effort, I might add) finding 3 babies:

	Colorband	Weight	Wing length (plus feathers)	Note
(#436)	1) Brown-Or	44.3	25	Eyes barely open
(#437)	2) Black-DP	40.0	21	Eyes closed
(#438)	3) None	24.8	16	" "

They were returned and I was gone by 1845.

7 May — 1100. Sounds still coming from the nest here.

14 May — 1500. Opened the nest and banded the babies, all 3 of whom have made it and will surely fledge. They are now #436, 437, and 438.

Examining the granary here, I could not see any bona fide good stored acorns remaining - they are apparently going to manage to fledge young without them.

~~Sparrapture recap~~ Weights and wing lengths:

436 : ①	85.3 gm	89 mm
437 : ②	76.5 gm	78 mm
438 : ③	59.7 gm	50 mm

17 May — 1130. No sounds from hole (probably too old for that now) but ♂ M/Red #301 seen nearby. [! Ah... see 11 Sept. 78 notes].

18 May — Baby seen peering out at ~~me~~ this afternoon.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone — Hastings Reservation

11 September Looking over my notes for this group I discovered that ♂301, who I saw here on 26 April and again on 17 May, is not the Bird I ~~thought~~ knew to have moved here (e.g. ♂300) and had seen here last fall. In fact, ~~♂~~ ♂301 (♂300's sib from Hay-Blom) disappeared from Hay-Blom at the same time as ♂246 and ♂300 but was not seen again and had been presumed gone. Now, however, it appears that he left with the other two birds (both ♂♂300 and 301 were in their first year, mind you) and all most likely moved to Blomone. At this point it would be useful to watch and see which are still there.

3 November Watched here at dusk tonight, seeing 2 birds (only?) roost in the spring nest hole. There are acorns stored here, at least.

30 November Set up an ambush this evening and had 4 birds roost here.

27 December After a few more false starts I finally ambushed successfully, nabbing 3 birds (a 4th may have roosted elsewhere): ♂301, ♂ub, and ♀ub (now 479 and 478). Acorns are still present here, and I should plan on including this group next spring.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate (=Westgate) Hastings Reservation

17 February 1020. ①♂yel/ #394 plus 3-4 others in Gate sycamore.

23 February 1015. Watching. ①♀yel-Blk/M #397 and ②♂yel/DB-yel(n) #394 in Gate. ~~③♂Blue-Or/Blue #396.~~

1032. Now in the Gate tree: ③♂or-wh/M #258; ④♂Blk-wh(n)/Blk #395.

1045. ♂395 here eating an acorn. ⑤♀ub.

1103. ⑥♂Or-DG/Or #238. ⑦♂Blue-Red/Blue #396. Blue looks more light than dark (?)

1110. Took a break to count stores: Gate tree: 40; WGate tree: 268 } 328

1130. Back watching.

1140. ⑧2nd ♀ub (2 at once). The Blues on ♂396 look darker now.

1205. Leaving. Birds now flying down into the Live Oaks across the road from Gate tree, most likely for sap.

1210. ⑨♂ub, before I could finish my chapter and leave!

24 February Purge: j398. Last seen 1 Sept. 77; gone by 30 Oct. 77, → Disappeared about 30 Sept. 1977 ± 1 Month.

15 March ♂395 seen at ARF, too. See ARF, too notes.

2 April Ambushed at the '77 nest hole, netting ♂394.

7 April Ambushed at the '77 nest hole again, netting ♀397 this time.

12 April Ambushed at the "new" hole in the Gate sycamore, getting ♂396 and - at long last - an unbanded ♀ (now ♀433)!

1540. Counted stores: Gate tree: 9; WGate: 79; TOTAL 88.

Also a ♀ was in the hole in the Live Oak just above the limb. Could be it, but I'll make another check before opening it.

13 April 1130. ♀ub outside of the cut-open hole in the Live Oak. Birds are definitely interested in this tree.

17 April 1120. Nobody seen here in/out of any holes.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate (~~Westgate~~) Hastings Reservation

25 April 1320. Noone in any holes here.

26 April 1730. ♂ in hole in Live Oak.

27 April 1330. Noone in holes in the Live Oak or the ~~Fig~~ Willow this time.

3 May 1215. Bird in the high hole in the Weate Sycamore. Arghh!

4 May 1550. ♂M/[#58?] in Weate tree.

5 May 1115. Bird in hole in Weate Sycamore again. Looks bad, fans.

6 May 1530. No one in the Weate hole this time.

7 May 1515. Noone in any holes anywhere.

8 May 1015. Counted stores: Gate: 0 } 44 mi. Weate: 44 } Not much, but definitely something.

Nobody in any holes anywhere.

1805. Watching.

1810. Activity over in the field by the Live Oak (across the creek).

1820. Nothing here, however, except mosquitoes! Going for a look around.

1828. Bird in hole in Live Oak.

9 May 815. Watching the Gate Sycamore ①♀ub, ②♀wh-Red/M #433, ③♂ub.

830. ♂DB Red/DB #396.

12 May 1155. Noone in any holes.

13 May 1215. Bird in the new hole in the Gate sycamore.

16 May 645. Watching. ①♂or-wh/M #258. ②♀R-W/M #433. Also an intruder in Gate tree briefly displaced by the ♀. ③♂ub.

650. ♀433 plus one other just flew to hole in Live Oak! Could be it after all! 655. ④♀ub in Gate tree.

715. Everyone's disappeared here now for the last 15 minutes.

722. 1-2 birds possibly at the '77 willow nest tree.

735. 4 birds here now, ♀433 quite aggressive - chased another

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Westgate (=Gate) Hastings Reservation

(16 May) intruder.

805. ♂ Or-DG/Or #238. More action over on the inner side of the creek. But where are the babies??

835. Those 5-6 birds that there are keep coming over to this side (to the '77 nest area and/or the Live Oak). Looks good for the nest being here (ultimately, at least).

840. One of them finally: ♀ Yel-Blk/M #397 with 9433 in Gate tree.

955. ! Well well - the beggers fooled me again! Believe it or not, ♂ M/Red-DB #396 is in the Gate tree - with ½ an eggshell in his bill! Today is hatching day, and I daresay it's time for me to go find and then open the nest.

No! Egg-tossing & Cophagy! 30 June 1981

1520. After 1½ hours of sitting on the side of Haystack, opening the hole in the Live Oak, and wandering for some time through the Poison Oak across the road from the Gate tree examining trees I fear I am forced to admit that I'm stuck. If it hadn't been for the eggshell episode, I'd confidently state that they don't have a nest. As it is, I guess I have to convince myself that maybe they don't knowing full well that they do and that I'll kick myself when I discover where it is.

If only I'd known!

The birds are definitely sapsucking here (that, perhaps, is their main activity over here on the Live Oak field side of the creek) as well as hawking. Their nest, if any, can't be too obvious...

17 May 1555. Nobody in any holes here.

19 May 1500. " " " " " .

27 May 1800. Bird in the hole I cut open on 16 May. Finally, maybe?

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate — Hastings Reservation

28 May 1300. Bird in hole again. Could be it at last!

1830 - Yes indeed - and they have 6 eggs, most of which are opaque but 1 of which was fresh. Finally got the eggs of this group! (and there are most likely 2 ♀♀ involved!)

29 May 1230. Checked the hole with my mirror; it still has 6 eggs.

4 June 750. Bird in hole.

9 June 1100. Went up and checked the nest, where there were 5 big, healthy babies and one unhatched egg, which was removed.

12 June 1900. There were already 1 or more birds roosting in the new hole in the Gate sycamore as well as 1 bird in a higher hole in the nest tree but noone in the nest itself... meaning that I better check here again soon.

13 June 1200. No one in nest and no sounds heard. Looks bad.

15 June 1045. Contrary to expectation this group is not out of stores, and I came up with 35 in the Westgate Sycamore.

22 June 1400. Bled and banded the babies, all 5 of whom are (miraculously enough) fine, as #463-467.

5 July 745. Watching. ①♂ Or-Wh/M #258 in Gate Syc. ②♀ Wh-Red/M #433. Birds are hawking furiously here.

805. ③♀ ub ④♂ DB-Red/DB #396. ⑤♂ Blk-Wh(u)/Blk #395. ⑥♀ Y-B/Y-B #397. ⑦♂ Or-Da/Or #238.

830. I can hear babies over to my right (the nest tree and beyond) - none are hawking or begging in the Sycamore. ⑧♂ ub.

845. Finally a baby begging in the Gate Syc: ⑨ j Wh/DB-Red #466. 2nd one above me. ⑩ j M/ #465 begging in Gate Syc.

Da/- either 463 or 467. ←

905. ♀ ub is pretty active in feeding the babies.

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Westgate Nest Record

28 May 1977 1830

29 May 1230

9 June 1100.

Hastings Reservation

Nest opened: 6 eggs, 5 opaque, 1 fresh (#1) looking:

① 26.6×19.8 ④ 26.0×19.0

② 26.2×18.9 ⑤ 26.5×19.8

③ 25.9×18.5 ⑥ 26.4×19.5

6 eggs, unchanged.

5 babies, 1 egg

eyes not open papillae clearly visible

	① R-W (463)	② Or-Brn (464)	③ DP-Or (465)	④ Blk-Wh (466)	⑤ NB (467)
9 June 1100	32.7 (15.5)	26.5 ~~25.5~~ (13)	34.5 (15.5)	33.0 (14.0)	35.4 (15.5)
22 June 1400	77.3 (74)	75.4 (64)	82.6 (76)	89.9 (70)	84.9 (71)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate Hastings Reservation.

(5 July) 908. ♂395 seen feeding a baby.

910. Looks like a lot of what they're catching are winged ants.

925. Leaving. A good watch: conclusions: ① Babies are out, at least 3 are around, but are very hard to see (not surprising since they've been out of the nest no longer than a week) ② ♂394 is probably gone, having now been missed during 2 good watches since he was last seen in April ③ ♂58, always a problem, remains so still. At this point I will seriously consider dropping him (he hasn't been seen since December) inasmuch as I have no good reason to believe he still exists, other than that he was hard to see and may be hiding out somewhere still. If so, I'll just have to retract my decision later, I 'spose.

Nope-seen 6 Aug

3 August 1930. Walked by here to catch roosting only to find that the entire dead portion of the Live Oak nest tree (including this year's nest hole and Gate's 1975 nest hole) has fallen! Meanwhile most birds seemed to roost in the multi-entranced chamber in the Gate sycamore.

6 August 725. Watching.

740. ! ①♂$_{Yel/DB\text{-}Yel(n)}$ #394! One that I'd thought had disappeared! ②♂ u6. ③j$_{LG\text{-}Or/LG\text{-}Or}$ #464. ④j$_{WN/Blk\text{-}Or}$ #466. ⑤♂$_{Blk\text{-}WN(n)/Blk}$ #395

805. Birds have pretty much disappeared. I walked around, flushing several birds sapsucking. I also checked stores: ○ as far as I could tell.

920. ⑥j$_{M/DG\text{-}LP}$ #463 now finally back in the Gate Sycamore.

950. j463 back again.

955. Leaving for a brief final walk around.

Purge: ♂58. This old stalwart was last seen 3 Dec. 1977,

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Westgate Hastings Reservation

(6 August) and not seen 23 Feb. 78 (this bird was always pretty hard to see, but the watch on that day was as thorough as any): Dis. about 13 Jan. 1978 ± 1 month. [2 Dec. 1978 Not so - ♂258 lives! See below]

13 September 1015. ♂ Or-WN/Or #258 seen in WGate sycamore.

26 October 930. Watching. ①♀ub. ②♂ or-WN/M #258.

1000. In WGate tree: ③♂ DG/LG-DG #467.

1010. ④: j♂ WN/Or #465; ⑤♂ Blk-WN(N)/M #395. ⑥♂ Or-DG/Or #238 trying to store an acorn in the telephone pole down in front of Hallisey's.

1020. j♂467 is in the top of WGate trying to eat a newly caught Dragonfly (seems to be a regular Libellulid, but it's hard to tell). While I watched he almost swallowed it except for the wings.

1030. ①♂ M/Blk-Or #466. These babies are either all ♂♂ or they haven't molted yet!

1040. There was just a dominance fight in Gate with ♂395 getting pecked mercilessly for 10 seconds or so by ♀ub!

1100. Leaving. Must be more to be seen here.

3 November ♂466 seen wandering around at 1800.

24 November ♂395, ♂465, and ♂466 seen here by Ron Mumme.

25 November ♀ub seen here today by Ron.

28 November Counted stores: Gate tree: 283; WGate tree: 604 } 887.

2 December 930. Watching. ①♂ub. It's cold out! ②♀ub.

1000. ③♂ Or-DG/Or #238. ④♂ Red-WN/M #258. ⑤♂ M/Red- #465.

1110. In WGate tree: ⑥♂ DG/LG-DG #467

1150. For the past 40 minutes I've been watching a bird

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Westgate Hastings Reservation

(2 December) here in Wgate who has remained in or near here the entire time. He refuses to give me the look I want, but he is definitely ♂M/. There is either no band or a LGreenish band on the upper left, and the same for both Right bands. I can detect no striking contrast in the 2 right bands. My conclusion, therefore, is that ♂58 lives, and this is he (this bird is clearly not j463 or ♂465). Hopefully I'll get a better look, but the problem is in fact not that my looks have been bad but that his bands are apparently quite cryptic (e.g. olt and dull colored). LGreen fits. Also, there was a gap in the metal band suggesting an old (small) band such as Michael used to give these birds.

1205. Finally got him for sure: ⑦ ♂ LG/LG M/? #58! Good! A rebirth among this fall of carnage! Leaving for now.

3 December Revive: ♂58. Previously not seen since 3 Dec. 1977, 1 year ago exactly!

Purge: ♀433, ♂396, ♀397. All last seen 5 July; gone by 26 October → Dis. abt 31 August ± 1 month.

j463, j464. Last seen 6 August, gone by 26 October → Dis. abt. 16 Sept. ± 1 month.

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Pipeline
~~Blackrocker~~ Hastings Reservation

31 August 1130. This territory was begat this morning as Ron Mumme, Steve Davis and I hoised up 2 large sections of Road 1's old sycamore storage tree and nest tree (while fell last winter) ~~into~~ artificially enriched to hold 1000 and 450 holes up into a sycamore near ~~th~~ Finch Creek between the Geate and Road 1. I secured them one on top of the other with baling wire and a few nails. This tree has a dead top section with what at least appears to be a passable roost hole already, but I've never noted seeing any birds do more than fly by this area during the time I've been here.

1 September This afternoon I put the 3rd section into place with another 450 holes, cleared up the tree a little, and secured the other 2 sections more. This territory thus comes with an endowment of about 1900 holes; enough, I should predict, to get birds interested.

3 September 1100. Nobody seen here in passing.

8 September 1400. Well, well. Drove by and found 3 birds in or about the granary, all Ad ♂♂, and at least 2 of whom are unbanded. Two (ub) were working together in the granary (not on the holes; above them on the dead limbs) while a 3rd sat and watched from a nearby sycamore. This 3rd bird then flew off, leaving the other 2 here alone.

1410. One just hawked, the other probing in the top of the granary.

1412. Voilà une femme. Unbanded! Sitting apart in another tree nod. Not a lot of calling here, but just occassional soft wakas between the birds.

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Pipeline ~~Blackbecker~~ Hastings Reservation

(8 September) 1420. Everyone's left temporarily. Me too. Not bad, however- birds (3-4) clearly here ready to start a group within a week.

10 September 1145. Watching. ①♂ ub flew to top of granary, now sitting here.
1150. Flew off directly across the road.
1205. Noone back yet. Leaving.
1300. 2 ub ♂♂ here together now.

11 September After not seeing anyone here in 2 passes today Ron came by at dusk and saw 2 birds (≥1♂), who flew across the road (up toward Warp 5?) and apparently roosted up there.

13 September 1030. Nobody seen here in passing.

14 September 1400. Drove by here but once again didn't see anyone.

17 September 1035. Watching. Noone here.
1105. No sign of anyone. I guess either it's too early or there just aren't any acorns around. Leaving.

21 September 845-900. No sign of anyone here.

2 October 1510. No sign of any stored acorns or other type of activity here.

16 October 1445. No stores or birds here.

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Warp 5 Hastings Reservation.

17 February There are some stores here; also at least 1 bird was avidly barrit-cutting from not-too-far away as I wandered through.

8 May 1850. There are still some stores here as well as a bird or two in the vicinity.

7 June 700. Walked around up here, finding stored acorns (!) but no obvious sign of any nest.

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Road 1 Hastings Reservation

1 January ♀354 (plus most likely others) seen in adjacent Robertson Canyon/Poison Oak Ridge. See general M. formicivorus notes.

4 February Collected a sample of 55 acorns out of the sycamore.

7 February 1500. This may be futile, but here I am watching during a respite of this morning's storm.

1520. ①♂ub here, at ease and apparently not an intruder.

1524. ②♀ M/Or/Red? #409. ③♀ yLW #354.

1530. Rain has started again.

1534. Several birds in trees above the hide inc. ♀354, ④♀ Or-Le/DG #69 and ⑤♀ DB-WN(n) #295.

1555. 2 birds: ⑥♂ wn-or/DG #222 (DB WS, seen ~~possibly no WS~~) and ⑦♂ WN/DG #183 (wing-streamer lost).

1600. ⑧♀ M/DG-Or? #408. ♂ub in Main tree now also

1600. Several more in granary as rain starts again: ⑨♀ R-W/LP #180, ⑩♀ M/Red-Lgt #293, ⑪♂ DG-Lgt/M #406.

1608. Eating acorn in the road sycamore: ⑫♂ Or/DG- #294.

1630. ~~Leaving~~. Remarkably good watch, especially considering the weather. ♂407, the only one missed, could certainly be here. Otherwise all were seen well with the exception of ♂183, who was seen only poorly.

1640 ~~1630~~. ♂183 (Mauve/Blk, no WS) seen well.

1707. Leaving. I've now seen everybody at least twice, and it would not surprise me if ♂407 were indeed gone. Birds have been sitting around and eating acorns.

19 February A shocker! The nest tree (sycamore storage tree) has succombed! I searched around, but found no sign of any casualties, other than the acorns and nest holes. This has happened since 15 Feb.

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Road 1 — Hastings Reservation

(19 February) Counted stores: Main tree: 1211 (have they moved a lot into here? possibly recovered from the sycamore?)
Remains of sycamore: 31
Others: 62
Total 1304

21 February 1445. Watching the fallen sycamore to see if I can catch (see) some birds salvaging acorns.

1515. Juncos, Titmice, and Varied Thrushes have done some hopping around on the limb, and there have been lots of AW's flying back and forth, but none of them came down to or near the limb. For now I'm going to mark a bunch and leave. I marked 10 blocks of acorns, 20 per block, for a total of 200 spread out on the main fallen trunk (7 blocks) and 2 small limbs placed next to it (2 and 1 blocks).

23 February 1000. No major depletion of the acorns in the fallen limb: Black-17; Red-17; LG-20; Yel-20; DG-19, Tan-20, white-20; DBlue-19; Red-20; D.Bl-20. (total 193)

2 March 1230 Checked the marked acorns, which have disappeared rapidly: Black-limb gone entirely; Red-1; LG-3; Yel-12; DG-4; Tan-7; White-18; DBlue-5; Red-0; DBlue-4 (total 54/180) Most had disappeared entirely, though some were still in their holes empty, eaten apparently by a jay or some such. Being quite impressed, I checked the granary briefly (the light is none too good) and found but 1 marked (Red) acorn!

11 March 1030. The fallen sycamore is essentially depleted of acorns, marked or no. While driving up I finally flushed an AW

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Road 1 Hastings Reservation.

(11 March) from the tree, and ≥5 ∞ others were in the area; nonetheless, a perusal of their stores revealed only the 1 red marked acorn seen before. Clearly they have been using the fallen stores to some extent, however.

Several crows were up in the main granary here unsuccessfully being harassed by the woodpeckers.

5 April Counted stores: 538. All in main tree. Things quiet.

13 April Came by at dusk and found birds roosting in 2 holes in a sycamore by the creek and down toward Gate from the old nest tree. Saw no evidence of anybody roosting in the Valhalla hole. I'm going to have to be careful, though - with the old tree down this group's nest may be hard to find.

17 April At least 2 R1 ♀♀ (354, 180) over at Finch - see Finch notes.

No sign of anybody in holes, but with this business over at Finch it may be a little while. It turns out that there are at least 5 holes in the sycamore over by the ∞ river; one of them will probably end up being it.

20 April ♀354 plus (probably) others still interested over at Finch - see notes.

25 April ♀354, ♀180 still at Finch.

1715. Walked around, checking out old holes and looking for whatever. Got no good leads, but I did finally find the birds - 6+ of them, ∞ up in the sun on the side of Poison Oak Hill. I didn't search up there for holes, but I probably should.

26 April 1740. Birds are again in the same sunlit tree up on the side of POHill. Identified were ① ♂DBRW #222, ② ♂DG-LG/DG-LG #406, ③ ♂LG-DG/LG-DG #407, and ④ ♀LP/DP #409. This tree is really attracting birds - for buds, insects, and maybe sap as well.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 Hastings Reservation

(26 April) 1800. Something odd just happened: there was a displacement here by a ♂ M/ ?, apparently not a Road 1 bird.

1810. Leaving. Birds seem to have returned across the creek as the sun goes down behind the mountains. This is nonetheless a pretty good place to watch.

1815. Walking from the bridge just a bit towards R1, I flushed a gagle of birds from R1's granary, at least 2 of whom flew directly to Finch's sycamore nest tree. Both were ♀♀; 1 that I identified was ♀ Red-wn/LP #180. I don't think the other had a wingstreaker, either.

Returned at dusk, but didn't learn much (some roosting took place in the sycamore by the river again, but noone was in any other hole I know of [including at Valhalla]). I did flush a bird near dusk from the granary who seemed to head for the Finch nest tree - possibly one of the ♀♀ going to roost there?

1 May 1255. Watching on Granary Slope.

1300. Bird eating an acorn in the perch sycamore at the road.

1305. ① ♀ M/Or/ #409 and ② ♀ LB/M/ #408.

1315. ③ ♂ Red/LB-Wh #294 with an acorn. Also (!) ④ ♀ Blk/LP #354.

1325. ⑤ ♂ DBRW #222. There's a lot of activity across the road; I only get the occassional birds to show up over here.

1340. ⑥ ♂ ub, ⑦ ♂ DG-LG/M #406.

1420. ⑧ ♀ yel/Or-LG #293 in granary. [Slight possibility of a mixup with ♂ Wh-Red/DG #222 who was (I thought) here simultaneously]

1440. ♀ #354 here again briefly; also ♂ 294.

1445. ⑨ ♂ Maur/M #183. Birds are doing some

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 Hastings Reservation

(1 May) sapsucking here also as well as eating acorns.
1450. Leaving - Still missing some!

3 May 1330. Several birds in the lower Valley area inc.
① ♀ Red/Red + Red/Red #295. 3 other ♀♀ seen at Finch - see Finch notes.

8 May 1100. Walked all around here, seeing noone until I got to Valhalla, where there were 3 birds at least, one of whom flushed to the hole (nobody was ever seen inside it, however). It's possible that this area may prove to be important yet - there are really very few other holes that I know of where I'd guess these birds might breed.

Counted stores: ♀ (!) This group has joined the "for all practical purposes no stores" category. Clearly the loss of their 2nd granary and nest tree hit these birds hard last winter. Perhaps this also helps to explain the odd eagerness of the ♀♀ here to go over to Finch?

1840. Still birds and activity up around Valhalla, including some chasing. Nobody seems to be anywhere else, in fact.

16 May 1545. Bird in lowest hole in sycamore by the creek. May be hope here yet.

17 May 1545. Noone in any holes (Valhalla checked, too). 3 birds flushed from the main granary.

19 May ♀293 seen at Finch. See Finch notes. Also ♀354.

27 May 1515. No sign of anyone here in passing.

4 June 820. ♀354 and ♀293 at Finch.

850. No sign of any significant activity here after a 20 minute walk through the area and up by Valhalla.

7 June 640. Walked around here, finding noone in any holes. Up

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(7 June) at Valhalla, however, were 4-5 birds, who flushed up the (sunny) hillside a little further. Noone in the holes there, though.

10 June 700. Nothing seen here in/out of holes.

12 June 1905. 2+ birds roosting in the very high hole in the sycamore between the road and old gate.

~~14 June 1735. Bird in hole in sycamore granary just above the road.~~

29 June 1010. Noone in any holes that I know of.

4 October 815. Watching. ①♀Y/LW #354 in perch tree by road with acorn.

820. A ♂ was here in the granary briefly holding the well-beaten body of a Sceloporus about 2½-3 times as long as his bill. The head was not evident, and it had clearly been thrashed around a good deal since its capture. The bird flew off without doing anything with it except hold it in its bill. This is the 2nd Sceloporus I've seen apparently predated by AW - the 1st was at R3 earlier this year.

825. An intruder here - chased immediately and silently.

835. ♀354 still here, now with ②♀ Or/ M/Red #409 and ③♂ ub. ④♂ DBRW #222. ⑤♂ Dk-LG/M Dk-LG #406 and ⑥♂ LG-Blk/LG- #407. ⑦♀ Red/DB-Wh(n) #295.

900. ⑧♀ Wh/Red-LG #293. Storing is fairly heavy here. ⑨♂ Or/LB-Wh #294. ⑩♂ Mauve/Blk Mauve/M #183.

1000. Leaving. No sign of the 3 missing ♀♀.

Purge: ♀69. Last seen 7 Feb., gone by 1 May → Dis, about 22 March ± 1 month.

27 November Counted stores: Main tree 1606

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(27 November) Misc: 281 } 1887

Pretty good, considering. (I did not go up and check at Valhalla).

30 November Purge: ♀180 (at Finch). Last seen 3 May, gone by 4 October
→ Dis. about 19 July ± 2 months.
♀408. Last seen 1 May, gone by 4 October,
→ Dis. about 19 July ± 2 months.

11 December Ron watched here for several hours at midday and saw ♂u6, ♂183, ♂222, ♀293, ♂294, and ♀295, but not ♀354(!) or any of the 3 remaining babies from 1977.

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1 January — Birds from here were watched over in Robertson Canyon, just on the other side of the ridge, picking acorns, sitting around, and chasing other birds, probably mostly from Road 1. See general M. formicivorus notes.

4 February — Collected a sample of 50 acorns out of the Valley Oak.

15 February — 1135. Watching.

1145. ① ♂ LG-DG(N?)/WH #386 atop the nest tree.

1155. ② ♂ LA-LB/M #67. ③ ♀ M/DG-LG #232. ~~④ ♀ WH/WH #278.~~

1205. ④ ♂ LG-Blk/LG-Bk #63. ⑤ ♂ ub. ⑥ ♂ M/Red-Tan #282.

1212. ⑦ ♂ Or/Blue-WH #66. Birds are eating acorns here, but could be off sapsucking elsewhere as well.

1240. Now ⑧ ♂ WH/M #278.

1350. Leaving. ♀♀ are definitely scarce here - I saw ♀232 several times, but there were no traces of either of the others, both of whom (♀280, ♀385) I suspect are gone.

19 February — Counted stores:

Sycamore:	408	1613
Valley Oak:	1191	
Other:	14	

This group is doing fine and has lost no major parts of their storage space.

24 February — Purge:

①② ♀280, ♀385. Both last seen 29 Oct. 77; gone by 15 Feb. 78 → Disappeared about 22 Dec. 77 ± 1 month.

17 April — 1125. Fair amount of activity here: ① ♂ DP/LP #66 in the sycamore granary; ② ♂ M/Red-Tan #282 plus others in the nest tree (2 ♀♀ maybe?)

1135. ! There are 2 ♀♀ here, and one is ♀ Yel LW #354! (from R1) What the...? She is apparently not being chased.

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(17 April) 1137. ♀ Red wh LP/Red #180 (R1) here; but chased by a landing ③♂ wh/M #278. Possibly ♀232 is gone and being replaced??

1145. Something is up - a few Carricks by a ♀ sitting atop the nest tree.

1148. ♀354 in nest tree with another ♀ and ♂282 and ④♂ DG-LG/wh #386. Now also ⑤♂ ub there eating an acorn.

1152. ♀180 seen well in the nest tree. ♀354 there also. The ♂♂ are essentially uninterested, except for an occassional displacement (2 seen so far, but for the most part they are being greeted and tolerated). ♀232 must be gone.

1200. ♀180 is now checking out the holes in the sycamore nest tree.

1203. One of the ♀♀ just flew over to R1 - obviously this is a replacement midway being made (and relatively quietly).

1207. 6♂ LP-LB/M LP-DP/ #67 working stores with ♂278 in the sycamore granary.

1212. ♀354 now in the nest tree by herself checking out a hole.

1215. Both the ♀♀ are pretty much sitting here, avidly greeting any ♂♂ who come over to sit.

1225. That seems to be the story: ♂♂ are as before (with the possible exception of ♂63, who wasn't seen); ♀232 is gone, and will probably be replaced by ♀354, ♀180, or both(!) from R1 (unless others get wind of this-).

Purge: ♀232. Last seen 15 Feb; being replaced on 17 April however → Disappeared about 14 April 1978.

Stores: Sycamore: 100
Main Valley Oak: 418
Other: 0
} 518

20 April 1715. Watching.

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Finch — Hastings Reservation:

(20 April) 1738. ≥4 birds appeared, but only identified ①♂ La-Rd(W)/M #386. Now also ②♂ Red/LB-Wh #66 in the Valley Oak granary. ③♂ LP-LB/M #67

1745. ♀ with tail spots here briefly but now gone (in nest tree).

1750. There: ♀ Yel LW #354 in sycamore.

1800. ④♂ Wh/ #278; also ♀354 in sycamore again.

1815. Rain! Leaving. Things appear pretty much as before, with R1 ♀(?) quietly moving in over here.

25 April 1330. Watching again.

1337. In Sycamore nest tree (SNT): ♀YLW #354, ♀ Red-Wh/LP #180, and ①♂ub eating an acorn, and greeting the ♀♀ amicably.

1355. The 2 ♀♀ still up in the SNT. Looking quite at home, I dare say.

1400. ②♀ Red/Dk-Wh #66 in Valley Oak. ③♂ Wh/DB #278 in Syc. Granary.

Well, things look pretty much the same still. The 2 R1 ♀♀ are perhaps looking slightly more settled, but they are still rather segregated, being seen only in the SNT, whereas the ♂♂ for the most part are in the 2 granaries. It does look as though they're planning to stay, however.

26 April 1815. See R1 notes for more interchange here. Also, I flushed a bird from the hole in the sycamore granary ♀ facing the road (~45 ft up!) as I went by here.

3 May 1220. Things are hopping here - Lots of activity. Watching ①♀ LG-DB/M LGRW #339 (!) in Sycamore granary with ♀RYLW (?). → ②♀ LG/Dk-Lght RRLW #343 (!) [Both PO Hill revolution birds!]. Chasing here and high activity. ③♀ub. Birds flying here to "R2" area. ④♂ Wh/M #278 in small tree by nest sycamore.

1230. ⑤♀YLW #354 (R1) in nest sycamore. [Other ♀♀

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(3 May) mostly in sycamore by the road]. ♀343 seen unmistakeably in syc. by road. Lots of greeting going on.

1240. ⑥♂ub poking around in small syc. near nest tree.

1245. As expected, the ♂♂ seem to be taking it easy, not really chasing anybody. ♀354 in nest sycamore again. ⑦♂Red/LB-Wh #66.

1250. This seems to be following the usual revolution pattern: with several ♀♀ (♀354 plus probably ≥1 other R1 ♀) in the central area while others (♀339, 343, ub, etc.?) in the periphery. The ♂♂ go where they please and intermingle readily. The whole operation still isn't really very big - no more than 6-8 ♀♀ involved altogether, I'd guess.

1300. ♀339, 343, and a 3rd (prob. ub) always together over in the sycamore granary.

1305. 2 more in syc. nest tree: ⑧♂LG-DG(u)/Wh #386 (Finch) and ⑨♀R-W-R/LP #180 (R1). Also maybe ⑩♀M/[293-R1?]. - Yes → ⑩♀M/Red-LG #293 with ♀354 in nest sycamore.

1320. ⑪♂LG-Blk/LG-Blk #63 (missed previously).

Two definite sets of ♀♀ here - about 3 in each set. (One the R1 birds and the other the POHill birds). Very interesting! Leaving for now.

5 May 1030. Several ♂♂ here but not too much activity.

1035. ♀354 at hole in nest sycamore. At least one other ♀ there, too. No ♀♀ over here at the sycamore granary, however.

1045.! For the past 3 minutes I've watched ♂M/Blk-Wh Wh-B/B-W #184 from R3 working and eating stores from the Valley Oak granary. Noone else was in the tree, however, and finally he shot

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(5 May) off back towards R3 before anyone else ever [apparently] became aware of him.

1100. ♂ red/LBrun #66. Leaving. (now also ♂ yel-red/ #67). Things are settling back down, but doviously some wierd things are still happening. Looks more than ever as though 1-2 R1 ♀♀ will move here.

8 May 1050. Some chasing and activity still going on here as I came to count stores: Sycamore: 0
Valley Oak: 330 } 330.
Other: 0

Things have clearly not settled down as yet.

16 May 1545. Noone in any holes here. Also all quiet.

17 May 1550. Noone in any holes.

19 May 1500. ① ♀ wh/Red- #293 (Road 1) at hole and now sitting in the nest tree. Watching:

1503. A ♀ in nest tree preening greeted by ② ♀ Blk/LB ♀LW #354. ♀354 now sitting in sycamore.

1515. The ♀♀ in the nest area are trying out holes. However, there was also just 1 or 2 ♀♀ here in the sycamore nest tree (one with a wingstreamer).

1522. ♀ub in syc. granary.

1535. ③ ♂ LP-LB/M # 6? in syc. granary.

1540. Leaving. Nest should be soon here.

25 May 1500. Nobody in any holes.

27 May 1520. " " " "

2 June 1150. Bird in ~~the~~ a hole in the sycamore granary over the road.

4 June 800. ① ♀ LW #354 in sycamore. Several others here also.

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(4 June) 805. ③♂ M/Red-tan #282 in sycamore. Also a 2nd ♀.

815. 2nd ♀ is probably ♀ M/Or-LG #293. Still a fair amount of activity around here.

820. Going around to check holes.

830. Nothing.

6 June 1800. Nobody in any holes here.

9 June 1720. " " " " " .

10 June 700. Lots of chasing and activity here in the nest sycamore area. Several ♀♀ here in revolution activity. One wing-streamered bird seen: ①♀ Lght-Dk/M YRW #339 (from POHill). She's more in the middle of things than before.

705. At least 3 ♂♂ sitting here also while ♀339 chases other birds (♀♀).

710. 4+ ♀♀ here, mostly banded but hard to see. ♀354 (RI) not seen. ②♀ M/Lgreen (prob. #343, wing-str. lost; POHill) here. Yes: ♀ LG/DB-LG M/LG #343.

718. ♀♀ definitely fighting it out here (lots of wakas, some chasing, ♂♂ here but basically uninvolved). Light is bad now, however. Leaving. No activity at present on W side of road.

720. ③♂ Tan-Red / Tan-Red #282 seen in sycamore.

11 June 1000. banded ♀ in sycamore, but otherwise all quiet here already ①♂ LP-LB/M #67. just chased someone from VO granary. ②♂ M/Red-Tan #282 here.

1005. Now ③♀ YRW #339 + 2nd banded ♀ in sycamore. ④♀ M/LG #~~343~~.

1015. All pretty quiet here (!) Things will perhaps now settle down, with ♀339 and ♀343 here rather than anyone from RI. Leaving.

13 June 1145. All quiet here (!) Checked holes but found noone.

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(13 June) There are still stores left, however; the time may be soon.

14 June 1735. 1 bird flushed from hole in sycamore granary right above the road. Otherwise all pretty quiet.

15 June 1030. Counted stores: 150, all in the Valley Oak. Things were quiet and no birds were in any holes

19 June 1700. Nobody in any holes here yet.

22 June 1305. Watching. ♀ atop sycamore.

1313. ①♂ Red/LB-Wh #66 in VO granary. ♀ is ②♀ LG/DB-Wh #343. Now preening atop sycamore. This bird looks like she's here for good.

1335. Cooing for a brief walk around.

29 June 1000. Noone in any holes here.

1 July 1130. " " " " "

3 July 1615. Watching.

1638. ①♂ T-Red/T-Red #282 in VO granary; also ②♂ Red/LB-Wh #66.

1715. Leaving. Pretty slow - not even a glipse of the ♀(♀). Noone in any holes either.

24 July 1530. Watching.

1605. ①♂ R/LB-Wh #66, ②♂ Wh/DB #278 in nest tree + nearby perch sycamore.

1620. 4 birds on nest tree, apparently all ♂♂.

1630. Leaving - still nothing on the ♀(♀).

Counted stores: 0, or very nearly so. I bet they've run out quite recently (since 3 July, most likely).

10 September 1210. Watching. Several birds here, apparently storing. ①♂ Red/LB-Wh #66.

1230. ♂66 now working on a hole in the nest sycamore.

1237. ②♂ Wh/DB #278 across the road.

1240. After an initial flush of activity, the birds are pretty scarce

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(10 September) right now.

1255. Very little here now (except for ♂66 still working on the hole). Leaving. No sign of [the] ♀[♀].

20 October 1515. Watching. Several birds storing acorns in nest tree: ①♂ ~~R-I-R~~ M/Red Tom-T-R/T-R #282, ②♂Red/Blue-Wh #66. Lots of stores already. ③♂Wh/M #278. ④♂u6.

1545. ⑤♂LG-Blk/LG-Blk #63. ⑥♂LP-LB/M #67 just chased a Flicker over here to the Sycamore Granary.

1600. ⑦♂DG-LG(n)/M #386. That's all the ♂♂!

1630. Leaving. I'm not saying it's impossible, but given that the birds are pretty actively storing here I consider the fact that I saw no ♀ the entire time as good evidence that in fact this group still doesn't have one! Remarkable! (and a wee bit disturbing, I might add!). I did see all the ♂♂ at least twice (♂63), and probably up to about 20 times (for ♂282, ♂66). Not once did I even think I saw a ♀.

27 November 1015. Watching. 4♂♂ here. Seen right away are ①♂DP/Wht #66, ②♂Wh/M #278 and ③♂M/Red- #282.

1040. ④♂LG-Dg(n)/Wh #386. ⑤♂LP-LB/M #67

1115. Leaving. No ♀. Possibly down 1-2 ♂♂ as well.

Counted stores: Sycamore : 152
Valley Oak : 451
Other : 30
} 633

Nest sycamore lost the top horizontal limb with ~120 holes (most all there had been in that tree).

11 December ♂278 seen here this morning by Ron while watching at R1.

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4 February Collected a sample of 50 acorns out of the Valley Oak.

19 February 1400. Watching. It looks like this group lost a major limb from its sycamore granary recently also (maybe not-)

~~Northern link is Ok~~.

1435. Leaving - too many damn cars out here on a nice Sunday afternoon.

Counted stores: Valley Oak: 409
Sycamore: 202
} 611

They have indeed lost a limb from the sycamore along with about 400-500 holes and probably lots of acorns - accounting in part for the large decline in stores there.

21 February 1515. Watching.

1600. The sun has just gone behind the hill, and still nobody has returned. Maybe tomorrow!

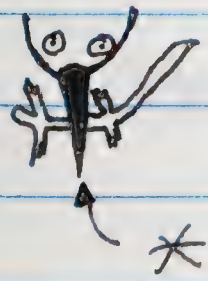
23 February 835. Watching.

842. ① ♂ M Wh-Blk #184. ② ♂ Or/LB #68. ③ ♀ DB/Wh-LB #265.

855.! Over on perch tree across river we have ♂68 feeding a begging ④ ♂ Blk-Wh(n)/M #384! Oops!

915. ⑤ ♂ Red-Blk/Red #382 eating an acorn in the Valley Oak. Meanwhile, ♂184, ♀265 over across river on perch tree with ♂384 and ⑥ ♀ Wh-DB/Yel #383 begging from the ♀.

925. 3rd ♀: ♀ Wh?, probably 269.



930. ♂68 on perch tree across the river with a small lizard (Sceloporus, no doubt) in his bill - about 3x length of his head! Wow! No squirming - probably dead already. Looked around several times, then flew off.

950. Leaving. Got essentially everyone.

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13 April 1140. 2 birds flushed on arrival.

1147. ① ♀ DB/Wh-LB #265 in nest tree. ② ♂ Wh-Blk/Blk-Wh #184 here also (flushing from a hole?).

1158. ③ ♀ Wh-DB/ #383 landed at the '76 nest hole.

1205. 2 more: ④ ♂ Blk-Wh(w)/Wh #384 and ⑤ ♀ DB-Wh(w)/Wh #269 (finally). Birds all eating acorns (the juvs begging from adults).

1208. ⑥ ♂ Red #382 also.

1218. Pretty sure I got the final bird: ⑦ ♂ DBlue #68. Also saw ♂ 184 clearly dominate one of the young ♂♂.

1220. Leaving. When I came up, a ♀ (the adult, I imagine) was in the high hole below the knot. Hope she isn't going to nest there! There's also a new hole in a nearby limb.

17 April 1320. Bird flushed from the '76 nest hole. Started to count stores, but just then the sun was obliterated by some heavy clouds.

18 April 1100. On a (bad) hunch, I went up and opened the '76 nest hole, but there was nothing in it as yet.

Also counted stores: Valley Oak: 196
Sycamore: 50
} 246

20 April 1712. ≥ 1 bird in the new hole in the other limb of the nest tree. Nobody elsewhere.

25 April 1700. After flushing a bird from the new hole again this morning I was sure I had it, so I went up this afternoon (flushing a bird again!) and opened it. But nothing! However, I suspect that action should begin here quite soon, so I suspect that my efforts will eventually become useful.

26 April 1730. Nobody in any holes here.

1 May 1250. Bird in newly opened hole. That's it this time for sure.

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(1 May) 1645. Returned and opened the hole again (which noone was in) and once again found nothing inside. What's holding everyone up?

3 May 1325. Nobody in any holes.

5 May 1045. ♂184 at Finch; see Finch notes.

1105. ♂ in hole. Now maybe?

1500. Success: 3 fresh eggs, marked and returned. It's about time. (Flushed a bird from the hole again).

6 May 1540. Bird flushed from the hole again, where there are now 4 warm eggs.

7 May 1500. Still 4 eggs. Looks like it.

9 May 1000. ♀269 seen wandering up at Black Oak!

14 May 1700. Checked the nest to confirm the full clutch, which is indeed 4 eggs.

19 May 1545. Counted stores: Valley Oak: 82; Sycamore: 49 } 131

Also went up to check the babies, all 4 of whom hatched, but one of whom is busy starving. The other 3 look ok.

26 May 955. ♂R-B/R #382 seen intruding briefly at Lower Arnold 2!

27 May 1530. Noone in hole. Watching briefly

1534. Bird went to hole - flushed when seeing me. I'm satisfied.

2 June 1145. Bird in hole.

5 June Watched the nest from 1420-1730 (190 minutes). All birds except ♂384 were seen feeding at least once. See back for compilation.

6 June Watched the nest here from 1500-1800 (with a ½ hour intermission). All 7 birds were seen feeding this time, again exclusively insects. Compilation is on the back. [go to p.5]

5 June 1420 - 1730 Nestwatch (stopwatch timed)

Feedings (d=dipped; i=inside nest)
([i]=fed insects) (l=leaves; fs=w/ fecal sacs)

0.00. watching
1230. ♂184 d; 1335 i. 1410. l fs
1440. ♀265 d [i]
+ 2545. ♀269 at hole but did not feed.
2600. ♂184 i . 2855 l.
2900. ♀383 i [i] 2950. l
+ 2955. ♂68 but did not feed. 040. l.
1235. ♀383 i [i] 1305. l
1335. ♀383 i [i] 1910. l.
2425. ♀265 [i] d 705. l.
755. ♀383 i 810. l.
815. ♂184 i 825. l fs
945. ♀383 i 955. [illegible] l. leaves edge 2150
[illegible]
2155. ♂184 d 2350. l.
2355. ♀383 d 2405. l
620. ♀265 d 915. l.
925. ♀383 d 940. l.
1010. ♂184 i 1030. l - fs
1620. ♀383 d 1655. l.
1720. ♀383 i 1730. l.
1800. ♀383 d 1810. l
1835. ♀383 d. 1845. l
1905. ♀383 d. 1912. l.
1935. ♀383 d. 1945. l.
2235. ♀383 d. 2250. l.
2745. ♀383 d. 2755. l.
325. ♂184 d. 400 i 435. l - fs
1145. ♂184 d. 1230 i. 1250. l - fs
1915. ♀269 d 1928. l.
1935. ♀265 d. 1945. l.
2015. ♀269 d 2030. l.
2050. ♀269 d i 2056. l.
2110. ♀265 d. 2120. l
+ 2125. ♂382 but did not feed. 2200. l.
2200. ♀269 d 2215. l.
2220. ♀265 d 2225 l.
2300. ♀269 d 2310. l.
2315. ♀265 d 2325 l.
2335. ♀383 d 2400 l.
2400. ♀269 d 2415. l.
2425. ♀265 d 2435. l.
2500. ♀383 d 2525. l.
2555. ♀265 d 2600 l
2650. ♀265 d 2700. l
2720. ♂382 d 2745. l.
2750. ♀265 d 2755 l.
500. ♀383 d 515 l
530. ♀383 d 535 l
640. ♀383 d 650 l
730. ♂382 d 750. l
840. ♂382 d 850. l
855. ♀383 d 905. l.
920. ♂382 i 930. l.
1115. ♂382 d 1150. l
1350. ♀383 d 1410. l.
*ladybug + other insects 1445. ♀383 d 1505 i 1645. l.
1940. ♀269 d* 1955. l.
2140. ♂184 [i] d 2300 l.
2750. ♂184 i 2900. l - fs

2910. ♂68 i 2920. l
2935. ♀265 d 2940. l.
120. ♀265 d 135. l.
235. ♀265 d 245. l.
355. ♀265 d 410. l.
945. ♀383 [i] d 1010. l.
1000. Leaving

Bird	#times fed	#times removed fs
♂184	9	6
♂68	1	0
♀265	15	0
♀269	7	0
♂382	5	0
♀383	24	0
♂384	0	0
Total	61	6

Minutes watched: 190

6 June 1500 - 1800 Nestwatch (½ hr intermission)

Feedings (d=dips; i=inside [i]=fed insects)		Leaves Nest hole (fs=fecal sac)
000. watching		
655. ♂184 d [i]	925. i	950. w/ fs
1355. ♀265 d		1415.
1630. ♀383 d		1652
1645. ♂382 i		1655.
1700. ♂184 i		1715. w/ fs
1710. ♀269 i		1740.
1825. ♂68 d		1845.
2200. ♂382 d [i]		2220.
2300. ♂382 d [i]		2320.
2445. ♂184 d [i]	2505. i	2535 w/ fs
2700. ♀383 d		2710.
225. ♀265 d		235
240. ♀383 d		250
255. ♂184 d	320. i	335 w/ fs
330. ♀265 d		355
425. ♀265 d		435.
505. ♀265 d		950.
950. ♀269 d		1015.
1020 ♀383 d		1035.
1045. ♂382 d [i]		1110.
1120. ♀265 d		1135.
1220. ♂384 d		1232.
1235. ♂184 d	1248. i	1310.
1310. ♀383 d		1330.
1525. ♂382 d [i]		1650.
1650. ♀265 d		1705.
1830. ♂68 d [i]		1900.
1915. ♀265 d		1945.
2000. ♀265 d		2150
2550. ♀383 d		2605.
2625. ♀383 d		2645.
2735. ♂68 d		2800.
[27 minute break] [stopwatch continued]		
1510 ♂384 d		1550.
2735. ♂184 d	2835. i	2845. w/ fs
820. ♂382 d		915.
920. ♀383 d		925.
950. ♀383 d		1010
1100. ♂382 d		1110.

Continued on back of p. 5.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 Nest Record — Hastings Reservation

1 May 1645 — No eggs in hole.

5 May 1500 — 3 eggs, marked 1-3

6 May 1540 — 4 eggs: ① 25.7 × 19.8 — wt (7 May) 5.5 gm
② 25.7 × 20.5 — 5.9 gm
③ 24.7 × 20.5 — 5.5 gm
layed today ④ 25.4 × 20.7 — 6.0 gm

eggs were all warm.

7 May 1500 — 4 eggs, weighed

14 May 1700 — 4 eggs.

19 May 1600 — 4 babies: [wt (WL)]

	#443 ① Blk-DP wt Dot L Rump	#444 ② Red-DP wt Dot Rt Rump	#445 ③ Dr-Born	④ No band #446
19 May 1600	11.8 (10)	14.9 (10)	17.2 (10.5)	5.0 (starving)
9 June 1720	93.7 (94)	92.6 (93)	93.5 (97)	71.4 (67)

15 June 923 — First baby (#445) fledged. See notes.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 — Hastings Reservation

9 June 1720. Bled and banded the babies, all 4 of whom have made it! (furthermore the 3 big ones were fat!) They are now #443 to 446. That's 6 for the year total.

11 June Watched the nest today from 720-950. See back. Confusion between ♀269 and ♂384 during the first hour (I recorded ♂384 5 times when I was unclear about his similarity in bands to ♀269) led me to omit the first hour.

13 June Watched the nest from 830-1130; all 7 birds were seen and the identifications went very well. The babies can get their heads out of the hole now and fledging will be soon.

1135. Counted stores: Valley Oak 58 } 78
Sycamore: 20 }

Compilation for the nestwatch: ([a]=fed acorns. [i]=fed insects; all trips except for =in)

Fed	Left	Fed	Left	Fed	Left
000. watching					
045. ♀265	055	2945. ♂184 in	010. w/fs	2020. ♀269	2025.
100. ♀383 [a]	115	120. ♀269	130	2445. ♀269	2452.
600. ♂184	612	200. ♂184 in	225. w/fs	350. ♀383	353.
700. ♂68	705	550. ♀269 i	600.	405. ♂68	425.
800. ♂68	805	1300. ♀265	1308	635. ♀269	640.
1320. ♀383	1325	2510. ♀383	2515.	645. ♀265	650.
1400. ♀269 [i]	1410	2625. ♀265 [i]	2632.	730. ♀265	735.
1610. ♀383	1615.	840. ♂384	845.	920. ♂384 [i] in.	1010.
1900. ♀265 [i]	1915.	1130. ♀265	1135.	1045. ♀265	1050
000. ♀269	005.	1200. ♀265	1208	1125. ♀383 [i]	1135.
320. ♀383	325.	1405. ♀265	1410.	1320. ♂184 in	1355. w/fs
445. ♂382	450.	1412. ♀383	1415.	2000. ♀265 in [i]	2020.
530. ♀383	533.	1430. ♂68	1435.	2640. ♀265	2645
1620. ♀383	1625.	2245. ♂184 in	2330. w/fs	2745. ♀265	2752
1800. ♀269	1808	2350. ♂68	2355.	2755. ♀383	2805
2000. ♀265	2015.	2410. ♂384	2418.	000. Leaving.	
2015. ♀383	2020.	115. ♀383	120		
2105. ♀383	2110.	125. ♂382	132.		
2155. ♀383	2200.	215. ♂384 [i]	300.		
2305. ♀383	2310.	705. ♀265	715.		
2325 ♀383	2328	1100. ♂184 [i]	1150.		
2750. ♀269	2800	1615. ♀383	1620		
2900. ♀383 [i]	2920	1640. ♂384	1647.		

| | | | | |

continuation of 6 June Nestwatch (from back of p. 3)

Ins	Outs
1125. ♀383 d	1135.
1155. ♀383 d	1200.
1220. ♀383 d	1225.
1235. ♀383 d	1242.
1250. ♀265 d	1255.
1305. ♀383 d	1310.
1320. ♂384 d	1330
1335. ♀383 d	1400
1415. ♀383 d	1435.
1440. ♀265 d	1445.
1500. ♀265 d	1508.
1512 ♂184 d [i]	1540 i. 1555. w/ fs
1600 ♀265 d	1610.
1643. ♀265 d	1650.
1720. ♀383 d	1727.
1750. ♀265 d [i]	1805.
1808. ♂68 d	1818.
1915. ♂68 d	1935.
2250. ♂384 d	2300 i
2410. ♀383 d	2425.
2530. ♂184 d [i]	2550.
2555. ♂382 d [i]	2640
2725. ♂382 d	2735
340. ♂68 d [i]	415.
430. ♂184 d 450. i	505. w/ fs
610. ♂184 d 620. i	630. w/ fs
1210. ♂184 d [i]	1230.
1245. ♂184 i	1305. w/ fs
1310. ♂68 i	1350. w/ fs
1400. ♀265 d	1410.
1515. ♀265 d	1530.
1810. ♀265 d	1940.
2115. ♀265 d	
000. still at lip. leaving.	

Bird	#Feedings	#times removed Fecal sacs
♂184	12	9
♂68	7	1
♀265	19	0
♀269	2	0
♂382	9	0
♀383	18	0
♂384	4	0
Total	71	10
Minutes Watched:		150

2500. ♀265	2505.
1150. ♀383 [i]	1200
1730. ♀383 [i]	1837.
1850. ♂184 i	1920. w/ fs
1920. ♀383	1940.
2345. ♀265 [i]	2355
2700. ♀265	2708.
2850. ♀265	2855.
2940. ♀265 [i]	2945.
000. leaving.	

11 June 720-950 Nestwatch
all dips except as noted w/ i
[i] definitely fed insects

Ins	Outs
000. watching	
325. ♂184	350.
815. ♀383	825
845. ♂184	855.
905. ♀265	925.
1910. ♂184	2055.
2120. ♂ * [i]	2145
2200. ♀265	2208.
2430. ♂184 [i]	2440.
2445. ♀269	2453.
2600. ♀265	2610.
2825. ♂184	2835.
1330. ♀265	1340.
1410. ♂184 [i]	1435.
1915. ♂184	1925.
1935. ♂184 [i]. i	1955. w/ fs
2300. *	2320.
2500. *	2507.
2550. *	2557.
2600. ♀383	2605.
2620. *	2627.
2700. ♀383	2708.
2725. ♀383	2730.
015. ♀265	020.
050. ♀383	056.
550. ♀383	605.
650. ♂184 i	720. w/ fs
725. ♀265.	740.
755. ♂184 [i] i	835. w/ fs
835. ♀269	850.
1120. ♀383 [i]	1130.
1213. ♀265	1230.
1700. ♀269	1710
1810. ♀269	1808.
1905. ♀383	1915.
2015. ♀383	2025.
2040. ♀265	2050.
2115. ♀265	2120.
2125. ♀383 [i]	2132.
2330. ♀383	2335.
2350. ♂184 i	2415. w/ fs
2545. ♂184	2605.
2615. ♀383	2622.
2845. ♀383 [i]	2850.
2900. ♂184 [i] i	2935. w/ fs
050. ♀383	057
145. ♀?	200.
800. ♀269	805.
825. ♀265 [i]	835.
930. ♀269	935.
1125. ♀269	1135.
1215. ♀269	1230.
1300. ♀265	1310
1525. ♀383	1535.
1630. ♂?	1645. w/ fs
1825. ♀383	1840.
1925. ♀265	1935.
2215. ♂184 i	2250. w/ fs

this hour not counted due to confusion between ♀269 and ♂184 [* feedings]

Bird	#times fs removed	#times fs eaten	Total
♂184	0	0	0
♂68	0	0	0
♀265	0	0	0
♀269	0	0	0
♂382	0	0	0
♀383	0	0	0
♂384	0	0	0
?	0	0	0

Minutes watched: 90

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Road 3 Hastings Reservation

14 June Watched the nest from ~~0600~~ 1540-1730 ~~-0610-0830~~ (1 hr. 50 min.). See back for compilation. Things were quite slow - but the babies are just about to fledge!

15 June Watched the nest (for the last time) at 815-1015. Rather interestingly (and the first time for me) I was actually watching when the first baby fledged - #445 (the most advanced) at 923. Following this birds continued to feed at the nest, but since ~~feeds~~ some of the potential feedings were no doubt siphoned off I only watched for another ~~32~~ 43 minutes. At that point it was clear that the others (at least the other 2 elder ones) were close behind. The fledgling was seen on the main trunk of the nest tree several minutes later begging from the adults but quickly disappeared from view and wasn't seen again.

24 July 1700. Saw j444 and j445 sitting in the trees ~~on~~ in the flat next to the gate just before they both flew up to a live oak well up the slope to join the others, all of whom were apparently sapsucking there.

1715. These birds have a very few remaining stores: I counted 15 in looking over their granaries. Also found here were enough feathers scattered around all on the road edges on both sides ~~the~~ to convince me that someone's been had here. Despite careful searching I was unable to find a carcass, but several all-dark, worn rectrices as well as some blunt primaries make me suspect that one of the adults was the victim. Closer examination confirmed the likelihood that these are the remains of somebody.

14 June 1540-1730 ~~1640-1850~~ Nestwatch
in = in nest [a], [i] fed acorns, insects

At nest	Left
000. watching	
2025. ♂184 in	2120. w/fs
500. ♀?	503
600. ♂184	605.
745. ♀383	753
850. ♂184	855
1000. ♂184 in	1020. w/fs
1600. ♂184 [i] in	1625. w/fs
2405. ♂384	2410.
2605. ♀265*	2635
2640. ♂384 in	2850.
2845. ♀265	2850
500. ♂68	508.
1855. ♂184 in	1915. w/fs
2120. ♀265	2125.
1800. ♀383	1803
1820. ♀383	1825.
2000. Leaving	

Bird	# times fed	f.s. removed
♂184	6	4
♂68	1	0
♀265	3	0
♀383	3	0
♂384	2	0
?(♀)	1	0
Total	16	4

Minutes watched: 110

*actually ended up feeding ♂384 who was in the hole looking out when she arrived.

15 June 815-1015 Nestwatch

	At nest	Left
	000. watching	
	015. ♀269	018.
	035. ♂184	040.
	045. ♀383	048.
	345. ♂382	350.
	505. ♀269	508.
	525. ♀383	528.
	615. ♀269	620.
	935. ♀269 [a]	939.
	945. ♂68	950.
	1030. ♀269	1042.
	1325. ♂382	1328.
	1335. ♀383	1338.
	1630. ♂184	1633.
	1850. ♀265	1855.
*w/ Lepidoptera adult	1920. ♂184 [i]* in	2040. w/fs
	2235. ♀265 [a]	2320.
	2345. ♀265	2348.
	2640. ♀269	2645.
	2655. ♀265	2700.
	2830. ♂184 in	2905. w/fs
	020. ♀265	025.
	420. ♂68	425.
	520. ♂184 in	630. w/fs
	1015. ♂184	1018.
	1025. ♂68	1033.
	1050. ♀265	1100.
*w/ tipulid	1130. ♀383 [i]*	1035.
	1530. ♀383	1534.
	1750. ♀265	1755.
	1815. ♀383	1818.
	1840. ♀383	1843.
	1900. ♀269	1904.
	2315. ♀265	2330.
	2440. ♀383	2445.
	2720. ♂184	2725.
	2900. ♀383	2907.
	150. ♂184 in	220. w/fs
	215. ♀269	230.
	235. ♀265	240.
	315. ♂184 in	400. w/fs
	350. ♀383	405.
	540. ♀383	545.
	825. ♀269	830.
	920. ♀383	925.
	1240. ♂68	1300.
	1320. ♀383	1325.
	1405. ♀265 [i]	1415.
	1425 ♀269	1433.
	1555 ♂68	1620.
*	1740. *j~~445~~	Fledged-flew out of hole.
	2140. ♀383	2144.
	2440. ♀383	2444.
	035. ♀383 [a]	045.
	100. ♂?	105. w/fs
	125. ♀383	135.
	340. ♀383	343
	620. ♂384 [i]	624.
	945. ♀269	950.
	1530. ♂184	1533.
	2710. ♂184	2735.
	2940. ♂184 in	005. w/fs
	000. Leaving	

Bird	# times fed	f.s. removed
♂184	12	6
♂68	5	0
♀265	10	0
♀269	11	0
♂382	2	0
♀383	18	0
♂384	1	0
?(♂)	0	1
Total	59	7

Minutes watched: 120

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Road 3 — Hastings Reservation

6 August 1030. I was only able to pick up ♂384 in passing by here; also now ♂ Red-Blk/Red #382.

7 August 815-845. Watched from up on the hill, seeing ♂68 and ♀265. The birds were primarily over around Pat's Cabin apparently sapsucking in some live oaks there.

4 September 735. Watching. Several birds around. ① ♀ Yel-Blk/Yel #383. ② ♀ DB-Wh(n)/M/ #269. 800. ③ ♂ M/Blk- #184. ④ j DB-Wh(n)/Or #444. ⑤ j LB-Red/LB #446. ⑥ ♂ DBlue #68.

810. ♀269 here with a green acorn.

830. ⑦ ♂ Blk-Wh(n)/Blk #384 is here hawking at the creek across from the truck.

904. An ub ♀ intruder quickly chased off, apparently by ♂68.

905. Leaving. No storing to speak of as yet.

1 October I've just come across a problem compiling data on this group - contrary to my computer records it's clear from M.H.M. "notes" that he has no idea whether this group bred or not in 1973 or 1974 or really how many birds founded the group in April 1973. Thus I should change the origins of one of each of the 2 "original" ♂♂ and ♀♀ here to "Present at" and begin the history here on Sept. 1974.

5 October 950. Watching. ① ♀ DB-Wh(n)/M/ #269. ② ♂ DB/Or/LB #68 ③ ♀ Yel-DB/Yel #383. Birds have lots of stores - especially chrysolepis.

1005. ④ ♀ DB/Yel- #265. ⑤ ♂ Blk-Wh(n)/M #384. ⑥ ♂ M/Blk-Wh #184.

1030. finally: ⑦ j DB-Wh(n)/Or #444. Intruder chased briefly.

1045. Over in the VO perch tree: j444 and ⑧ j LB-Red/LB #446. These juveniles are certainly steering clear of the storage area.

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Road 3 — Hastings Reservation

(5 October) 1100. Leaving. It would seem likely that this is the lot, though the babies are hard to see and one could still have been missed.

Purge: j443. Not seen after banding on 9 June.

25 October 1330. Watching. ①♂ WH-Blk/WH #184. ②♂ DB #68. A fair amount of flying around here. ③♀ (nn) DB-WH(n)/Or #444, fiddling around. ④♂ Red-Blk/Red #382. j♀444 now working in the granary. ⑤♀ DB-WH(n)/WH #269. ⑥j♀ (nn) LB-Red-LB #446; landed at nest hole briefly. Lots of stores here, by the way.

1345. ⑦♀ DB/Lght-LB #265. ⑧♂ Blk-WH(n)/Blk #384 landed at nest hole.

1415. 1st-yr birds are definitely not being kept from the granary now. Heh heh: ⑨♀ Red-DB/Red #383. I'd guess that that's about it, and that j445 is no longer with us. Leaving.

28 November Counted stores: Sycamore: 616
Valley Oak: 528
} 1144

30 November Purge: j445. Last seen 24 July, gone by 4 September
→ Dis. about 14 August ± 2 wks.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — Hastings Reservation

4 February 1040. Watching.

1115. There was just a silent, brief chase here with one bird landing briefly, ♂ Wh/Dk Yel/LB ?. Apparently an intruder himself.

1140. Some birds finally show up: ① ♂ Wh-DB/Lg #256. ② ♂ Mv/Mv #86. Both eating acorns or looking at stores.

1220. Both ♂86 and ♂256 here several times working stores. ③ ♀ Or M/ Light #191.

1235. ④ ♀ Wh-R/W-R #419.

1255. Finally got him: ⑤ ♂ Yel/Pnk #402. Several birds here again eating acorns or working stores.

1350. Leaving to count stores.

Stores: tree 2: 1292
tree 1: 303
} 1595

This group has recently lost several small limbs containing a total of about 300 holes.

20 February Took a sample of 60 acorns, mostly from one of the fallen limbs.

12 April 1400. No birds seen (♂402 is down at Pump today, by the way).

Counted stores: tree 1: 530
tree 2: 104
} 634

14 April Two birds roosted in the unopened hole on the lower side of the field this evening. Noone apparently roosted in the nest hole. Others may have roosted on the upper end of the field somewhere or other.

19 April ♂402 still at Pump.

1500. Nobody seen in any holes up here.

23 April ♀191 identified as the new ♀ living down at MacRoberts. See MacRoberts notes.

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School Hill — Hastings Reservation

23 April 1545. Flushed 2 birds in passing by the upper route on my way to School Hill West. No sign of anybody at S. Hill "B".
1615. On my way back I flushed a ♀ who I'm pretty sure was ♀419 even though I just barely saw her bands as well a ♂ from the main area. Nobody in any holes, however.

24 April Purge: ♀191. Last seen here 4 February 1978, down at MacRoberts by 5 April (though not identified until 13 April): Moved to watched group 6 March 1978 ± 1 month.

29 April 1210. Nobody seen in holes.

5 May 1225. Watching.
1240. Nobody. Also too windy to watch. Leaving. Nobody in any holes either.

Stores: Tree 2: 544 } 658
Tree 1: 114 }

6 May 845. Watching. ♂ in tree 1.
920. Intruder: ♀Or-Blk/Or-Wh #435 here in tree 2 hiding, but ①♀Wh-R/W-L #419 and ②♂ May/Mau LP/M #86 slowing made their way towards here and then chased her off.
955. Intruder here briefly again, also ♂86, ♀419, and ③♂Yel/BP #402.
1030. Intruder again, chased by 3 birds.
1040. Intruder again chased silently by 3 birds.
1110. First sign of some interest in holes: a ♂ at the lip of the unpaired hole lower in the field.
1115. Leaving. ♀191 gone as expected. Saw a good indication of there being only 3 birds here, suggesting that ♂256 may very well be gone. Also it's pretty clear that there's no nest here yet.

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School Hill — Hastings Reservation

8 May 900. Checked around, but came up with no birds.

11 May 1150. Noone in any of the holes here.

12 May 1400. Checked holes. Also went up and opened the '74-5-6-7 nest hole just to see what's up. The problem with it turns out to be that there's ½-¾" of dirty water in the bottom of it. Thus they apparently won't nest there this year, if/when they finally get around to it.

The heavy rains last winter have done in at least 2 holes now (Y, School Hill) and probably others as well. In normal years this factor probably is the largest single reason why new holes have to be used.

17 May 835. Watching.

852. ①♂ LP/M #86 down below field.

906. ②♀ +W-R/W-R #419 there now.

935. Went around checking for holes. Also cleaned out the '77 nest hole in hopes of inducing them to nest there after all.

Best I can tell these birds have no nest as yet. Also, it seems quite likely at this point that ♂256 is gone. That leaves only a pair here except for ♂402, who wanders around a lot and at present is probably still down at the pump.

19 May Several birds roosting in the lower oak. Also one bird ~~who~~ went whizzing off behind the '75-77 nest tree, possibly to a hole back there?

22 May Purge: ♂256. Last seen 4 Feb, gone by 6 May ⇒ Disappeared about 21 March 1978 ± 1 month.

24 May 1600. ♂ in ~~lower~~ hole in the lower Valley Oak. That's it.

25 May 1800. With the usual unpredicted difficulties (the sucker is

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School Hill Hastings Reservation

(25 May) deep!) I got into the hole, where there are 4 opaque eggs.

29 May 1815. Went up to confirm the set size only to discover that the kids have hatched already! Without suitable equipment I retreated immediately.

1 June 1845. Went up and checked the babies, of whom all 4 are doing fine

2 June 1830. watching. Flushed bird from nest.

1910. ♂ slipped back in the hole. Leaving.

4 June 1730. Watching.

1745. ①♂LP/M #86 with food in tree 1.

1815. ♂ went in the nest and fed the babies.

1845. Once again, the pace here is a bit too slow for my taste. Another watch, preferably during the day, will have to be made.

11 June 1435. Watching. ♂ in nest hole.

1500. ①♂LP/M #86 in storage area. 2nd ♂ just went in the nest.

1510. ①♂yel/ #402 scarfing down an acorn atop tree 1.

1545. Leaving. Very slow here. ♂256 nowhere to be seen as expected, but – aha! ③♀wh-Red/w-R #419 here after all – all 3 birds together in tree 1 now. Okey doke. Leaving.

18 June 1130. Went up and banded the babies, 3 of whom made it (and were fat!); they are #452, 453, and 454.

There are definitely stores remaining here.

28 June 1850. Counted stores: Tree 2 223 } 288
Tree 1: 65 }

A baby was in the hole looking out as I passed.

8 July 1030. ♀419 seen up here while doing veggy transects.

14 July j454 seen down at 1500.

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School Hill Nest Record

25 May 1800

29 May 1815

1 June 1845

Hastings Reservation

Nest opened: 4 eggs, opaque:

① 26.0 × 19.9

② ~~18.0~~ 26.8 × 19.0

③ 26.0 × 19.6

④ 26.7 × 19.8

Babies have hatched.

4 babies, measured and marked

	#452 ① Wh-Red	#453 ② Brn-Or	#454 ③ Blk-Yel	④ No band
1 June 1845 [Wt(Wt.)]	24.1(11.5)	24.2(12)	26.3(12.5)	18.2(10)
18 June 1130	92.0(81)	86.1(81)	92.4(83)	—

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School Hill — Hastings Reservation

25 July 935. Watching.

1055. Nothing. Going to check stores.

Stores: Tree 1: 18 } Total 122
Tree 2: 104 }

28 July 715. Watching.

740. 1♂ here, seemingly [illegible].

815. Going to wander around; the birds just aren't coming up here.

830. ♂ LP/M #86 sitting alone at lower edge of the field.

29 August 1715. Passed by, seeing no birds and ○ stores, except for 2 green acorns newly stuck up in the storage areas.

13 September Ron Mumme watched up here from 815-1045 this morning seeing only ♂86 and j454.

23 September I'm changing the history here of the 2nd ♀ub, who presumably laid here in 1975. I'm going to guess that she may have been the ♀ who moved down to 1500 in August 1975, thus = Dis. Abt. 750821. 2 ub ♀♀ were seen together here in May 1976, but this was during or just before egg laying, in which only 1 ♀ was taking part. Thus, she might have just been visiting briefly. In any case, this makes as much sense as any other explanation.

30 September 840. Watching. ① ♂ Mv/Mv LP/M #86 here right away.

905. ♂86 back again. Things are amazingly slow.

950. Amazingly there has still been absolutely no sign of anyone yet besides ♂86, who is here pretty consistently. No storing was seen, though he did chase a few jays here and there.

Counted stores: 132 (only), all in tree 2.

13 October Ron watched up here between 700-1030, once again seeing

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School Hill — Hastings Reservation

(13 October) only the Ad ♂86!

It's probably reasonable to Purge the 2 babies not seen since ~~bar~~ being banded (452, 453).

14 October Watched roosting here tonight and didn't see anyone!

18 October 1515. Jim Griffin reported some activity up here, so here I am, and he was right - there are 4 or so birds here actively greeting each other and flying around. ♂ Mau/Mau #86 here; lots of ~~oos~~ of chasing (among the 3-4 birds) ~1450

1533. Everything stopped... (!?)

The story here is that there are a total of 3 birds, ♂86, ♀247 (Hay-Blom) and ♂171 (Hay-Blom). The activity is about 90% chases of ♂171 who is being pursued relentlessly by ♂86. ♀247 was never chased. She was seen eating ½ an acorn, and greeted the other birds (♂171 at least, ♀ but possibly both) whenever they came near her. ♂171 hung in there, giving a wheezy alarm call followed by a forceful kamit (Urrk?) every once in a while when left alone for more than a second or so. No sign of any other School Hill birds, however.

1538. ♂171 apparently left at 1533; now ♂86 sitting quietly.

1545. That's it. All dead quiet, just like that. ♂86 sitting quietly in tree 2. Intruders gone. I'm leaving.

1546. Flash! Now both ♀247 and ♀176 (Hay-Blom) are here, ♂86 is not chasing them. Boy I'd like one or the other of those ♀♀ to move in here! Go to it, kids! (What a coup!)

1550. Someone was getting chased again.

1602. That looks like about it. ♀ At least 1 ♀ still here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — Hastings Reservation

(18 October) No sign of ♀419 (or any of the babies). Ah - both ♀♀ still here.

3 November 920. Counted stores: only 176, all in tree 2.

19 November 1210. Watching. ♂ here sitting: ♂ LP Maurie #86.

1300. ♂86 still here - no sign at all of anyone else! leaving.

30 November Purge: j452, j453. Both Not seen after banding on 18 June.

♂402. Last seen 11 June, gone by 28 July → ~~Dis. about~~ 4 July ± 2 wks. [changed to Left group about [29 April 79]] *seen again here on 20 April 1979 (29 April 1979)

♀419. Last seen for sure on 8 July, gone by 13 September → Dis. abt 10 August ± 1 month.

j454. Last seen 13 September, gone by 30 September, → Dis. about 22 Sept. ± 1 week.

This poor group is now apparently reduced to a singleton ♂, ♂86.

11 December Ron watched here this afternoon and saw ♂86, alone as before.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West — Hastings Reservation

23 April 1600. No sign of anybody living here as yet.

11 June 1600. Walked over here out of sheer guilt only to find a ♂ in the hole (in the Black Oak)! Flushing him, I rushed right up but there was nothing inside it (yet). Somebody may be living here now, however, and it would be nice to know who.

28 June 910. None in evidence here as I walked by.

29 August 1745. Noone and no stores seen in passing.

Melanerpes formicivorus

ARF too — Hastings Reservation

14 February 1650. 6! birds flushed from this area as I was cutting across the field here to head down to the road.

13 March This group appears to at least have a few stores left. Not so that other group up past ARF which was discovered late last fall. I've seen no sign of life there for some time now.

15 March 830. watching. ♀ub (darkish eye) in the tall perch tree.

900. ♀ub sapsucking in a Blue Oak towards the road via the trail. ♂ub there also.

910. I now have 2 ub ♀♀, 1 ub ♂, and apparently a banded ♂.

930. 3 ub ♀♀ plus an intruder: ♂ Blk-Wh(hl)/M / Blk #395 from Weate (or ♂394 from R3, but I guess the former, since this area is just above the gate). Not chased by the ♀♀ (2 were here watching him.)

945. The birds are busily sapsucking again.

1040. Looks rather less likely that there are any banded birds living here after all. I've had 20 or so good looks of birds sapsucking and all have been unbanded.

1045. Leaving.

9 November 1245. No stores here; this group has apparently bit the dust for the winter ~~as well~~. (along with half the other groups on the Reservation).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

17 February 1125. Watching. Nobody seen upon arrival.

1150. Found them! Birds are sapsucking in a small Live Oak near ~~here~~ here. ①♂ wh-Red/wh #410. ②♀ Red-M/Red-Lt/Red-Lt #320. Still here after all!

1202. ~~②♂ Yel/# 102~~ up in the perch tree. → Wrong! He's ③♂ Yel/DG-Lt #428!

1215. More birds sapsucking: ④♂ DG/or-wh #426.

1225. ⑤♂ wh/Yel #102 (now!) over across field a short ways.

1255. 2nd ♀ now in sap tree: ⑥♀ Red/M #427.

1310. Birds are also going back into the forest and eating some oak buds; nobody here has consumed an acorn yet!

1325. Looks good here with 6/7, but my looks and their visibility (fair to poor while sapsucking) don't warrant a firm conclusion on ♂321.

1335. Got him! ⑦♂ Reddish W - M/Dk-?? #321. That's it. Leaving.

13 March 1200. Counted stores: central area: 793; Side area: 12 } 805

18 April 1450. Nobody in any known holes here. All dead quiet.

27 April 840. Nobody in any holes. Quite a few (5-6) birds up in the perch area towards the field, however. So the I've only identified ①♀ Red/M #427, however (plus at least 1 other ♀ here).

852. ②♂ wh/Yel #102

900. Bad news: there is definitely an ub ♀ about 25 ft away from me eating acorns in the granary. Argh! What's up? (At this point I have to assume she's an intruder until I see her here with others or at a nest). Looks like a good time to leave before somebody else like her shows up.

906. I think I may be ok and that something funny may in fact be going on with the ♀♀ here - there are too many of them and a little too much activity

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

(27 April) for normal in the area. (see also Bianca notes) (and LA2 notes).

3 May Nobody seen in any holes this afternoon.

9 May 1000. Noone in any holes. 2 intruders here, however, wandering into the storage area while the residents are elsewhere (I don't know where): ♂ub and ♀ DB-Wh(N)/Wh # M/Wh-DB 269 [from Road 3!]

Counted stores: 336 (central area). Also went up and fixed up the lip of the '77 nest hole which had disintegrated somewhat.

13 May 1120. Nobody in any holes here.

18 May 1015. Heard lots of activity here earlier, but it's all quiet now and nobody is in any of the known holes.

21 May 700. Watching. Bird in '77 nest hole when I arrived - probably their nest. ① ♀ Red/M # 427 in perch area towards Bianca. ② ♂ Blk/Or # 426 also.

718. ③ ♂ Wh/Yel # 102 there.

740. Everybody sitting around preening. ④ ♂ Or/DB-Wh(N) # 321. ⑤ ♀ Or-LG/ # 320.

815. One of the ♀♀ sapsucking in the tree just across the field.

830. I'm about 75% sure I had ⑥ ♂ M/ # 410.

845. Several birds sapsucking here now. 85%: ♂ M/Wh

856. ⑦ ♂ LP/DB-LG # 428 for sure and another 75% sure look at ♂410.

900. Good. That's the lot. No actual trips to the nest seen, but I bet their nest is starting in the hole here.

901. Flash: bird was in the hole. Time to go up and check it.

1200. Tried to open the hole but I'd done too good a job last year and I don't have the equipment I need at the moment.

22 May 1800. Went up and got the nest, which has an impressive 5 eggs! (go to p. 4)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak Nest Record

22 May 1600

Hastings Reservation

Nest opened: 5 eggs, nearly opaque - not fresh (clutch complete no doubt):

① 27.2 × 20.3 mm

② 27.7 × 19.0 mm

③ 28.3 × 19.0 mm

④ 27.7 × 19.6 mm

⑤ 26.6 × 19.3 mm

5 babies: [Wt (wing length)]

1 June 1300

	#455 ① ~~Blk-Wh~~ no band	② BP-Wh(n) 456	③ Or-Brn 457	④ BP-Or 458	⑤ Blk-Wh 459
1 June 1300	16.1 (10mm)	18.8 (11)	23.0 (12.5)	21.6 (12.0)	19.1 (11)
19 June 1800	846 (72)	87.5 (82)	85.2 (91)	99.0 (87)	86.7 (84)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

28 May 1120. Flushed a bird out of the hole but could hear no baby noises.

1 June 1300. Opened the nest and measured the 5 babies.

5 June 820. Babies can be heard from the nest.

10 June 1015. Nobody seen here but the nest is at least still intact.

19 June 1800. Bled and banded the babies, all 5 of whom are fine, as #455 through 459.

20 June 1600. Counted stores: 239, all in central area.

4 July 800. 1 of the babies was in the hole looking out at me.

16 July 1610. 2 babies and at least 4 other birds flushed from around here; there are also stores remaining.

29 July 730. Watching. ① j Yel-Blk/Yel #456 in perch area.

802. ② j M j:- Red-? #455 in side area. j456 there also.

810. In perch area now: ③ ♀ Red/Light #427 plus a ♂.

815. Now j455 flying to sap tree; ④ j Or-Blk/Or #459 there. ⑤ j Lgt/Or M/Or- #457 there also. Adults seem to be generally further back in the woods somewhere and harder to see.

830. ⑥ ♂ Wh/Yel #102 in the rear.

900. The birds are in part in a Black Oak just down from the storage area which already has nearly mature acorns on it!

925. Yes: ⑦ j DG-BP(w)/DG-BP(w) #458. All 5 here!

930. Leaving. The adults are around but hard enough to see to prompt me to let them wait until storage is in swing - which won't be long for this group!

Counted stores: 0! They sure ran out fast! This does help explain why they're sapsucking so fervently, however.

15 October 815. Watching. There are plenty of stores here now but no immediate sign of any birds.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

(15 October) 900 ~~1000~~. Absolutely no sign of anyone here until I started counting acorns and 1 bird sat briefly in the upper perch tree. Where are they all?

Stores: 507 ~~mi~~, all in central area.

930 ~~1030~~. Walked down to the dead limb at the far low edge of the territory where, lo and behold, there are some birds! ① ♂ Or/[illegible] M/Dk-?? #321; ② ♂ Yel/Wh Wh/Yel #102; ③ ♀ Red/M #427. Birds are eating acorns down here.

945 ~~1045~~. A big dominance fight over something; ♂321 >> ♀427. ④ ♂ LP/Dk-Lt #428.

1015. Both ♂102 and ♂428 now in perch area over toward Branca from the central storage area here.

9 November 1010. Watching.

1035. ① ♂ Wh/Red #102 in perch tree (and has been since 1010).

1050. 1 bird flushed from the low snag; not much activity there, either.

1120. ♂102 back alone in perch tree.

1140. ♂102 still here, but otherwise the place is deserted.

I'd no longer count on any of the babies being around. Hey - an adult ♀ just joined him up there: ① ♀ Dk/Red / Red/M #427.

1200. ♂428 apparently seen with another bird on the far edge of Branca (see Branca notes).

30 November Purge: ♂426 (NO see 1428), ♂410, ♀320 (see beyond). All last seen on 21 May, all gone by 29 July → Dis. abt. 24 June ± 1 month.

In addition, it looks bad for the babies (all 5!) but I'll give it another watch before giving up on all of them.

9 December 1040. Watching. Noone found in a walk around the area. Also, the entire top of the "Hanging Limb tree" has fallen (no holes lost, however).

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Black Oak — Hastings Reservation

(9 December) 1050. ♂ unsexed #102 up in the perch area.
1058. ♂102 just chased a Nuthatch from the central area.
1150. ♂102 still up in perch area alone. Noone else seen as yet.
1215. Still nothing but ♂102. Leaving. Looks bad for the kids.

26 December Purge: j455, 456, 457, 458, 459. All 5 of these were last seen on 29 July. Inexplicably all had apparently disappeared en masse by about 9 November (at least), thus Dis. about 19 September ± 1 month
In addition, both ♂426 (previously trapped but ok) and ♂321 have moved to Bianca. ♂426 was last seen in May, ♂321 was last seen here on 15 October, neither were seen at Bianca on 28 September (when I ambushed). I thus assume they moved together following 15 oct. and before 10 December when they were seen at Bianca: Moved to watched group about 12 Nov. ± 1 month.

29 December 1500. A bird in the granary while I was counting stores was ♀ Red/M Most likely #320 (I would like to confirm this - possibly the bands were messed up since only the red stood out [She thus could have been ♀427] but I'm pretty sure this was her).
Stores: 589. In central area.

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Arnold 1 Hastings Reservation

14 February 1625. ♂or/wn #199 seen across the road at the edge of the forest towards the Cabin.

17 February 1540. It's rather late, but I'm going to try for a short watch.

1630. Leaving. Nothing going on at the moment.

18 February 950. Watching again.

1004. ① ♀ Blk/LB-Rd #422.

1025. ② ♂ R/M Or/wn #199.

1120. ♂199 sitting in the VO across the road now. Everything is pretty quiet. ♀422 in main tree doing some hawking.

1150. Leaving. No sign of anyone but these 2; however things are quite slow here.

1345. I am lured back again by seeing 5 birds in the granary, 3 of whom are ♀♀! This mystery was solved when one, a ♀ Red/ ?, was chased out by ♂199. Up to then she had been quietly hiding down below the others. The identity of the intruder, unfortunately, is obscure with only 1 band to go on. Watching again.

1415. Converging on ♂199 as he tries to eat an acorn: ③ ♀ La/DA-La #423 and ④ ♂ M/La-DA-? #267.

1445. Leaving. With 4/5 I can feel like I may be close.

22 February Pam saw what seems likely to have been the "intruder" ♀ (♀ Red/M? Mauve) here again today (seen 18 Feb.) I wonder what her story is?

13 March 1400. Counted stores, coming up with only 940 hrs. Not only did they lose a bunch (700-800) in the limb that fell, but I think they've been going through them considerably as well.

1430. ♂ Red/M #199 plus a 2nd ♂ seen in a tree at the edge of the old field between A1, Black Oak, and Bianca.

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Arnold 1 — Hastings Reservation

18 April 1610. Noone in any holes here. There are stores remaining, however.

21 April 1400. Noone in any obvious holes.

27 April 1300. No sign of anyone here.

9 May 1240. Watching from hide.

1303. ① ♂ Or/Wn #199 here.

1343. Intruder just chased by 1-2 birds.

1355. Birds are here (and at the Valley Oak across the road, where something may be up) but hiding from me remarkably well.

1410. Leaving. To the extent that something's happening here, it seems mostly to be across the road. Will have to try here again.

13 May 730. Watching

800. Nothing. Leaving.

1100. Returned to count stores: bird in hole at the time. Stores: 705.

14 May 610. Watching. Bird in hole.

620. ♂ still in hole.

640. A ♀ just entered the hole. Even if I can't identify any of the birds, they do have a nest here.

650. Intruder chased here briefly.

655. ① ♂ Red/M #199, also ② ♀ M/Blue-Red #422. Bird going into hole.

702. !! First, another intruder chased briefly but viciously. Now ③ ♂ M/DB-Wh(a) #267 and ④ ♂ Yel M/Blk #266 sitting here near each other. 1 to go!

706. ♀ 422 just went into the hole.

715. Another chase of an intruder. A lot of Carrying not too far away from here today.

725. 2nd ♀ here, but wouldn't cooperate in showing her legs.

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Arnold 1 (+Nest Record) Hastings Reservation

(14 May) 755. Success: ub ♀ here displaced by ⑤♀ LA/M #423.

850. Very good. Leaving for a brief walk around.

18 May 705. Bird in hole. Babies probably not hatched yet.

955. No sounds from hole.

21 May 1145. No sounds from hole that I could hear when the bird flushed.

28 May 1220. Bird in hole.

900-1000. Watched the hole here, but after the ♀ initially inside left at 915 nobody went to it again. The birds are here, however, so I certainly don't know what's up. It would still seem as though they have a nest, but I wouldn't guess from watching that they have babies. Eventually I'm going to have to go up and find out what's up for sure. (One possibility is that their first nest failed and they're on a 2nd already).

1 June 825. Bird in hole.

5 June 1015. Watching. Bird in hole now, though there wasn't one earlier.

1115. An hour up, the original bird (a ♂) is still in the hole looking out at me, and I am still in the dark as to what's going on here. If they do have babies, they at least can't be especially old. I'd say I'll have to eventually give up and go check the nest after all to clear things up.

10 June 800. Finally went up, finding 1 baby:

Wt: 76.0gm ; Wing length: 68mm.

Though he is a little young (day), and I still have doubts about the determination of this group, I banded him as #447 just so I don't have to go back up in a few days.

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Arnold 1 Hastings Reservation

12 June 1830. Went up to check the baby, who is slightly on the lean side but otherwise seems healthy.

20 June 1730. The baby is looking out - he will fledge afterall!

25 June 1625. Counted stores: 441. No obvious sign of the baby inside the hole, so presumably he's out.

3 July 1900. ≥3 birds roosting in Nest hole.

7 July 715. jor-la/la-or #447 sitting in granary. He definitely made it!

29 July 1000. Counted stores: 30. Getting on their last legs here.

2 September 715. I could find only about 4 potentially good acorns stuffed here; they are functionally out of stores.

11 September Ron Mumme watched here this morning, seeing 2 banded birds (♂199 and ♀422) as well as several unbanded birds and an intruder or two (see his field notes).

14 October Ron watched here again and saw ♂199, ♀422, and → the baby who is a ♀447.←

15 October 1045. Flushed 4 birds from here when I came to count stores, of which there are only 215. (Boy these groups are in bad shape up here this year!)

9 November 1230. ♂ Red/ #199 here.

3 December 1400. Watching. Some stores left here.

1515. Except for a brief visit by one bird (who left before I could identify him) the place has been entirely quiet - leaving.

1520. At the upper corner of Bianca I flushed 2 birds over to the perch trees of Black Oak. One, apart from the other(s), was ♀ or-la/la-or #447! Don't know who the other is.

1540. Now here (on upper corner of Bianca) are ♀447, (2)♀ M/Light - #422, plus a ♂.

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Arnold 1 — Hastings Reservation

7 December 1315. Trying again.

1410. 3 birds here briefly: ①♀ or-ca/ca-or #447, ②♂ or/wh #199, and ③♀ M/ red-? apparently #422.

1445. Found the 4th bird: ④♂ M/-wh-DB #267. That appears to be it. No sign of the other two birds.

1500. Everyone, including me, is freezing. I'm off.

26 December Purge: ♂266, ♀423. Both last seen here on 14 May, gone (?) by 11 September (not a real good watch but nothing showed up subsequently) ∴ Dis. about 12 July ± 2 months

29 December Counted stores: 226. No sign of any birds in passing.

1345. ♂199 sitting in perch tree at Big Tree.

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Big Tree Hastings Reservation

14 February The rotten limb with the 1977 nest hole has fallen. There are still some acorns in the tree here, but I didn't see any birds in passing.

18 February 1200. Watching

1250. Got one: ♂ Or·Brn/Or·Brn #104 defending the area and doing some hawking.

1300. Things are still too slow here for my tastes. Leaving. I count 89 acorns here.

13 March There are still a few stored acorns here, but I didn't see any sign of the birds themselves.

18 April 1605. No sign of anybody here. A quick search of the granary scared up only 3 stored acorns remaining. This group needs watching soon.

21 April 1250. Flushed 1 bird from the granary. Watching.

1340. 3 birds in the perch tree: ① ♂ Or/Lght #403, ② ♀ DBl/ #404, and a 2nd ♂.

1350. Leaving. Too cold for now! Birds were eating an acorn - they do still have a few stashed away somewhere.

27 April 1020. Watching here and at KeepOut from hide.

1135. A ♀ in the perch tree here briefly.

1230. ♂ here briefly. Leaving.

3 May 1425. Watching.

1430. ① ♂ Or/M #403 sitting.

1445. ② ♂ Or·Brn/Or·Brn #104 here now.

1500. ♂403 is right here working on an old (now bottomless!) hole in a Valley Oak in between KO and BT.

1510. ③ ♀ sub sunbathing here. (Finally!)

1520. ♂104 again. No sign of ♂108.

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Big Tree Hastings Reservation

(3 May) 1523. Now ♀ub, ♂104, and ♂403 here together.

1555. At this point I'm still not sure, but I am at least willing to entertain the possibility that ♂108 is no longer with us, and that the group here consists of ♂104, ♀ub, and the 2 first-year birds. Leaving.

1650. Noone in any holes. This group is also Out of Stores.

4 May 1215. ♂403 in perch tree.

18 May 950. Nobody seen here in/out of holes.

21 May 940. ♂Or-Bm/O-B #104 seen in the top area near Keep Out. Also ♂Or/M #403 and ♀ub.

1020. Now up in the top area is ♂Blk-wh(n)/M "/Blk! (either ♂395 from Gate or, more likely, ♂384 from R3!) He's probing around in the top field here.

1145. Nobody in any holes.

25 May 1245. Flushed a bird out of a hole I'd previously not been aware of. Peering in carefully with my mirror, the hole looked ready but at the moment empty.

28 May 1120. Nobody seen here in walking around.

29 May 1020. Noone in any holes here.

5 June 850. " " " " "

10 June 850. " " " " "

1840. Bird(s)[roosting] in hole found on 25 May. Not a nest, I suspect, but could be a good place to ambush eventually.

20 June 1720. 2 birds flushed from hole found on 25 May.

24 June 1120. ♂Or/M #403 up in perch tree, possibly flushed from the hole, where I approached, making him rather upset. Possibly something up here after all. I heard nothing from the hole, however.

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Big Tree — Hastings Reservation

25 June 1515. Checked the hole, which has nothing in it in the way of eggs or wickers.

Purge: ♂ 108. Last seen 20 Oct. 1977. Inconspicuously absent during casual watches following that date, but definitely by 3 May 1978. → Disappeared Abt. 16 Jan. 1978 ± 3 months.

3 July 1905. 3 birds flushed from the low new hole.

16 July 1620. No one seen here in passing.

6 August A low crashing heard while I was up at Lambert's waiting for roosting turned out to be the limb with the new low hole in it!

29 August 1960. Pam saw 4 birds roost here this evening, in the large Valley Oak roost tree toward A1 from Big Tree.

31 August 1900. Tonight Ron Mumme and I watched here, seeing all 4 birds going into one of the known holes. We also saw some pre-roost mounting by 2 of the birds.

2 September 700. After distinctly watching all 4 birds roost here again tonight, I ambushed here this morning. Best I could tell, the gig went off without a hitch. Nonetheless, I've so far extracted only 3 birds (all banded: ♂104, ♂403, ♀404) and am now waiting and hoping for the 4th, who typically enough seems to have escaped somehow.

15 October There are no stores at all here, and probably no longer a group.

5 November Nothing.

30 November Purge: This group abandoned between 2 September and 15 October → Abandoned abt 23 Sept. ± 2 wks (♂104, ♂403, ♀404, and ♀ub). It is presently empty.

29 December 1345. Sitting quietly in the perch tree here is ♂ or/on #199 (A1).

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KeepOut — Hastings Reservation

14 February The limb with the nest holes has fallen within the last 5 weeks, taking with it the lower nest hole (used) but leaving the upper hole. No birds were seen. There are also no stores left, as far as I can tell. Obviously, it's possible that this group won't (hasn't) make made it through the winter either.

17 February No sign of anyone here today in passing.

18 February 1315. After seeing a bird flycatch near here I walked over and discovered ♂ LG/LB #118! The group lives!

1325. ♂118 now sitting atop the granary.

13 March 1320. ♂118 seen along the fence in the sap tree greedily scarfing down the fresh oak buds. No sign of the ♀.

18 April 1530. Nobody at all seen here in passing.

21 April 1300. At least 2 birds are here, making more noise than the [former?] resident ever do. (One garricked several times).

1345. A ♀ here, but I doubt it's old ♀109. May not even have been banded. Nothing for sure, however.

27 April 1020. Watching here and at Big Tree from hide.

1028. Somebody's calling from back here.

1042. At least one bird in the sap tree here sapsucking.

1100. There was a flurry of calls and then 3-4 birds were in the sap tree, inc. ♀ub. Maybe these are Big Tree birds taking this over temporarily again?

1115. Now ① ♂ LP/M / LP/LP #114 (Lambert) sapsucking. Apparently these are Lambert birds down here! I suspect that this bodes ill indeed for dear old KeepOut.

1125. ♀ub now there sapsucking again (presumably the

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Keep Out. Hastings Reservation

(27 April) unbanded ♀ from Lambert).

1150. ♂114 here sapsucking again.

1230. ♂114 here again. Leaving. I'm not learning the things I need to know here.

3 May 1425. Watching. Some activity here as I arrived (a bird chasing a ground squirrel from the granary).

1440. Some strange, occassional Cearricks coming from someone over here as well.

1445. Someone sapsucking here.

1455. ! ①♂LA/LB #118 sapsucking here. A 2nd bird somewhere also.

1528. ♂118 is now in a tree over to the "right" of the granary along the fence working on a partially-built hole.

1540. ♂118 back sapsucking. Possibly a 2nd bird?

1555. I'm still not real satisfied, but I'm happy that ♂118 is at least still here. My guess is that ♀109 is gone and has been, or is being, replaced by another ♀. (I'm not really able to say what was going on when ♂114 from Lambert was here last time - though ♂114 and ♂118 are no doubt old friends from way back) Unfortunately I have thus far failed to pin down a ♀ here, though a 2nd bird is clearly here. The garricks, etc., though, make me suspect that she won't be ♀109 when I find her.

4 May 1215. Watching.

1235. ! ♀ub here sapsucking. Aha! I think I finally understand!

1255. ②♂LP/LP #114 (Lambert) here now with ♀ub and

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Keep Out — Hastings Reservation

(4 May) 2nd ♂, no doubt ♂118. Hmmm.

1300. Here he is: ③♂LG/LB #118.

1310. Well, this clears part of the mystery up. ♀109 is gone and has been replaced by an ub ♀. ~~♂118 is~~ ♂114 is visiting here and possibly could even move in, for all I know. In any case, he'll have to wait until I do some watching at Lambert to see what's up there.

Note: at this point I have no real way of knowing that the ub ♀ here is not the same one that lives at Lambert with ♂114.

11 May Purge: ♀109. Last seen 31 December 1977. Gone, I think, by about 18 February → Disappeared about 24 Jan ± 2 wks. Who is replacing her is not clear at the moment, but the unbanded ♀ now there doesn't seem to have shown up until about 21 April. The present status of this group isn't clear yet, however.

18 May 710. Bird in hole in Live Oak nest tree! These birds may have a nest (in which case I can watch it and find out who's in the group)!

940. Noone in hole now. But an ub ♀ flushed from the area over on HNHR side who probably belongs here.

21 May 930. Bird in the hole again. This hole better be checked next time I'm up. Lots of activity in Topfield.

1025. Watching from truck such that I can see the hole and sap tree. Noone in the hole.

1045. There are at least 3-4 birds here. ①♂LG/LB #118. ②♀ub.

But definitely others -

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out — Hastings Reservation

(21 May) 1115. Finally a 3rd: ♂ LP/M #114.

1130. Leaving. These 3 could be it. The basic questions are

① is the ub ♀ the one from Lambert?

② have ♂114 and the ♀ moved here for good?

③ what's up with Lambert, anyway?

Tonight I'll attempt to ambush the hole here - hopefully catching some birds (here and at Lambert) will clear some of this up.

22 May 1510. Bird in the hole on this cool evening. I'll have to check and make sure it's not a nest before I ambush!

24 May 1910. Bird in hole again.

25 May 1030. Bird in hole. Watching from truck.

1100. ♀ in hole now.

1115. ♀ left and went to the sap area.

1125. ① ♀ub in the hole again.

1212. ② ♂ LA/CB # 118 in the vicinity now. No one in hole ♀ and a 3rd bird in sap tree now.

1223. ♂(118?) in the hole now. This group definitely does have a nest. The question is, Is ♂114 a part of the group or not?

1235. Leaving.

26 May 715. Watching. Bird in hole.

724. ① ♀ub and ② ♂ LA/CB # 118 together next to granary. 2nd ♂ in hole.

757. Got him: ③ ♂ LP/M #114 here, foraging along with the ♀. Looks like the 3 of them.

1100. Returned and peered into the hole with my mirror, finding 4 normal-looking eggs.

28 May 930. No one in hole. An intruder here; some chasing. ① ♀ub seen. [go to p.6]

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Keep Out Nest Record

26 May 1100 — Hastings Reservation — 4 eggs (all normal sized). Hole not opened.

29 May 1020 — 4 eggs.

10 June 920 — Nest failed. Hatched eggshells and 2 1-2 day old dead babies inside nesthole.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out — Hastings Reservation

(28 May) 940. ♀ ub sapsucking. Nest may no longer be being attended.
955. O.K. - bird in hole. Leaving for now.

29 May 1020. Checked hole - still 4 eggs.

30 May 1900. Bird in hole.

1 June 830-1100. watched the nest here, with little success, except that they're still incubating, an ub ♀, and ≥1 ♂ is involved. The 3(♂) were not identified, but things were definitely quite slow. I'll have to try again later.

3 June At this point I'm still going to hold back on adding ♂114, but I will add the unbanded ♀, who is certain (though there is still the possibility that later evidence will indicate her to be the ~~same~~ one from Lambert):

♀ ub. Not seen here 13 March, here by 21 April (by this time ♂114 here also) → Moved here [Age unknown] 1 April ~~31 March~~ 1978. My evidence is hardly airtight but I do suspect that there was somewhat of a gap (1-2 months) between the demise of ♀109 and the appearance of this ♀ here.

5 June 900. Noone in the nest, and no sounds from it either. Though I can't get up to it at the moment, my guess is that it's failed. In fact, looking at the records, today is the 11th since I first checked the nest and found the full set; thus, they almost surely would have hatched by now, and have already met their demise.

940. Watching.

1010. Leaving. 1 bird here briefly in the nest tree, but no activity around the nest itself.

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Keep Out — Hastings Reservation

10 June 920. Went up to the nest, and in opening it found several hatched eggshells along with 2 decomposing babies (about 1-2 days old when they died).

1700. Noone in hole; ♂ La/ #118 sitting quietly in sap tree.

24 June 1110. ♀ub in the trees by the fence on the N side of the granary; meanwhile a ♂ was as usual in the sap tree.

3 July 2000 Nobody roosted in the nest hole tonight. (!)

6 July 910. ♀ in the sap tree. Watching. Possibly ♀ own!??

925. ♂ La/LB #118 there sapsucking now.

940. 2nd bird now: ♀ub. ~~Scolding~~. Both in sap tree sapsucking.

950. Well, well: ♂ LB/LB #114 here with at least one of the others sapsucking. That bird is a continual problem!

16 July 1500. Watching ♀ub sitting in sap tree when ♂ LG/LB #118 joined here and began to get some sap out of a hole.

1630. The same 2 birds still in the sap tree. No sign of ♂114 so far today.

5 October No sign of any stores or birds here. Could be the end of the line for this group (I actually haven't seen any birds here since at least the end of August).

15 October Still nothing here.

5 November " " "

30 November The two birds here presumably abandoned between 16 July and ~ 30 August → Abnd. about 8 August ± 2 wks. (♂118 and ♀ub). This territory is now empty.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert — Hastings Reservation

17 February 1500. 1 bird flushed from Hast. fallen tree.

18 February 1500. Meandering up here again, I found ①♂LP/LP #114 and ②♀ub.
Counted stores: HFT: 374
Main tree (nest tree:) 28 } 402
LFT: 0 ; VO: 0
Not a lot, but definitely something!

18 April 1540. This group is now out of stores (0). Among other things, it appears as though someone's been ~~[illegible]~~ gnawing at parts of the Hastings fallen tree, no doubt squirrels or some such hastening the inevitable decline. Also saw no birds here in/out of holes in passing.

21 April 1345. Noone seen back here.

27 April See Keep Out notes for birds sapsucking down there (♂114, possibly Lambert's ub ♀).

3 May 1630. Noone at all seen here in passing.

4 May 1320. Watched here for awhile: zero. ♂114 down at KeepOut again, however.

1350. No sign of anybody around here.

1355. I think I'm in luck. I'd been sitting in on the knoll above KeepOut where there'd been some activity (toward Near Lambert from KeepOut) when finally ♂Or/~ #284 showed up and sat here for a minute (bands seen not well enough for me to be positive he wasn't ♂114, however).

1440. Success! After a walkaround Lambert's land I came back and flushed another bird from the area above KeepOut who flew to the Middle Tree and then over toward Lambert's, where she was finally identified as ♀Pink/Blk #283.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert — Hastings Reservation

13 May 810. Watching. Lots of flycatching and activity just up from here.

815. ① ♀ ub. hawking here. Also ② ♂ or / #284.

840. Walking up - several birds still hawking furiously up the fenceline a ways. ③ ♀ Red/M #283.

18 May 935. Nobody seen here in passing.

24 May 1930. At dusk, birds apparently roosted somewhere in the large Valley Oak granary on the Hastings side.

28 May 1145. Noone seen here but I found the hole where they are probably roosting.

29 May 1900. Having set up for an ambush, I watched at dusk. First, 2 birds went in the hole. Several minutes later 2 more came and sat at the hole before flying off. Both of these went in another hole up in the next tree up along the fence, but then one of those left and flew elsewhere.

So - this is potentially very exciting, as ♂114 is probably one of the 4 and - who knows - maybe the ub ♀ who's breeding at Keep Out? I do have to catch these birds!

30 May 1945. Couldn't find anybody roosting here tonight!

1 June 830. Lots of activity up here as I'm down watching at Keep Out!

5 June 910. Nothing seen up here in passing.

10 June 940. " " " " " " .

20 June 1650. " " " " " " .

3 July 1910. 1 bird flushed from one of the remaining holes on the old nest limb and at least 2 others in the hole I opened last year.

7 July 500. After considerable preparation, 4 birds roosted in a hole in the old nest tree last night and this morning (at 400)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert — Hastings Reservation

(7 July) I ambushed. I thought I had them (the trap worked fine) but in the end I think all escaped through a hole out the broken edge of the limb connecting to the roost hole. Quite a pisser, but it just means I'll have to wait and try again, since I don't think I'll be able to figure out the story here and at KeepOut until I catch them.

550. ♀ M1 ? [283?] sitting around here. Now a ♂ there.

11 September Watching here this evening I saw 3 birds, but only 2 seemed to roost in the hole where I was set up to catch them.

5 October 1800. Watching, but I'm not too hopeful - there are no stores anywhere at this group, and I fear it too may have become a casualty of ~~this~~ the rather inferior acorn crop up here.

1815. Looks very bad indeed - no sign of anyone roosting here at all! Sigh.

5 November Nothing at all here in passing.

30 November These 4 birds (♂114, ♀283, ♂284, ♀ub) were all here on 7 July. At least 3 (I will presume all 4) were here on 11 Sept, but all were gone by 5 October → Abandoned abt 23 Sept. ± 1 week.

This territory is presently empty.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 3

Hastings Reservation

18 February See LA2 notes for several A3 birds (♀128, ♂204, ♀207) seen in that area this afternoon.

22 February 1110. Watching.

1307. Despite several birds in the area, the first to show herself waited until now: ① ♀ DB·Wh(n)/DB #290. ② ♂ DB/M #123!! Now we're getting someplace! ~~[illegible] Badleg #122~~. ③ ♂ LB/R-W-R #204. Yes: ④ ♂ Or/ Badleg #122. ⑤ ♂ DB-Yel(W)/M #121.

1338. ⑥ ♀ Yel/ #128 sapsucking in the swale up towards Lambert's and Keep Out. Along with ⑦ ♂ LP-Wh/Blk- #120.

1345. Now ⑧ ♀ Or-DB/Or #289 sapsucking also.

With this I'm going to quit and go count acorns. All the "A3" birds have now been seen, and in addition it is clear that the LA2 ♂♂ (at least 3 of 4, and no doubt the 4th will turn up) have returned home now that LA2 has run out of supplies.

Stores: N fork: 1313 (lost 1 limb w/≈200 holes)
M fork: 708 (lost top w/≈300 holes)
S fork: 1500
Total 3521

Storm losses here (≈500 holes) were not major but did take quite a few acorns.

24 February ♂♂ 121, 122, and 123 readded here. See LA2 notes.

13 March Counted stores: N fork 1163; M fork 643; S fork: 1107 } 2913

18 April 1515. My first bite up here: a ♂ in the '75-'76 nest hole looking out at me, plus a 2nd bird nearby. Probably it.

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Arnold 3 — Hastings Reservation

21 April 1230. Even though there wasn't anyone in the '76 nest hole I went up and checked it anyway, finding nothing inside (the bottom isn't even clean and dry). Back to 0 up here, I'm afraid.

27 April 1145. Nobody seen here at all anywhere.

3 May ♀289 and ♀290 flushed at UA2 granary.

Noone in any holes here.

4 May ♀? in granary; ♂ub (argh!) in '77 nest tree, flushing towards UA2.

9 May ♂122 seen at LA2.

1210. Flushed several birds here (possibly one from a hole in the '77 nest tree) as I came to count stores:

N fork: 764
M fork: 188 } 1837
S fork: 885

The S fork has also lost a section with about 250 holes in it (along with their favorite perch limb).

13 May 920. Watching. ①♀ub across canyon. Argh.

945. ②♀ DB-wn(N)/DB #290 here

1030. ③♀ Or-DG/Or #289 in granary.

1050. ♀290 here. Others hawking far away across south ravine. No interest in holes. Blah. Leaving.

1055. ♀ Yel/DB #128 seen at Upper A2 (see UA2 notes).

18 May 715. Watching. Flushed several birds in arriving; the only one I identified was ①♀ub (!) The ub birds, purged last winter, may have to be revived.

740. ♀ub displaced here by ②♀ Yel/DB #128, then ♀128 flew over to greet ③♂ LP/M Or-wn/Dk-Grn #120.

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Arnold 3. Hastings Reservation

(18 May) $743. ④ ♀ DB-wm(m)/DB #290.

753. ⑤ ♀ Mauve/LP-Red #207 in granary.

757. ⑥ ♂ LB/R-w-R #204.

805. Pretty sure I had ♂ Red #121 across the gulch here ⑦ ♀ M/Red #289. ♂120 just visited the '75-76 nest hole briefly.

855. Preening down below is ⑧ ♂ No left leg #122.

915. Nothing new. Time to move over to UA2 for a bit. No real clue as to a nest as yet.

923. Checking back here I have ⑨ ♂ ub looking me over. These unbanded birds are a definite problem. It looks as though one of each may still be here, despite my prayers to the contrary.

935. There are

21 May 1000. Several birds on the A3 side of the Top field, no doubt of this group. Noone in any holes, however.

22 May 1810. Flushed 4 birds roosting already in the '77 nest hole (with a 5th still looking out at me!).

25 May Noone in any holes around here. Nonetheless, I better be careful - something ought to happen soon!

26 May 1050. Noone in any holes.

29 May 855. ♂ in '75-76 nest hole. Could be it finally.

1130. Opened hole: 2 eggs, clear, but dirty (but then again the hole was dirty to begin with.) At least this is it.

30 May 1900. Checked the hole, which still has but 2 eggs (bird flushed).

1 June 1145. There was noone in the hole this time when I went up; both eggs were still there, but they were cold - I would not be surprised if this nest had been abandoned. No birds were seen in the vicinity.

(go to p. 5)

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Arnold 3 Nest Record

29 May 1130

30 May 1900

1 June 1145

10 June 1100

Hastings Reservation

Hole opened: 2 eggs, fresh, but dirty. Not measured but marked.

2 eggs.

2 eggs, cold:

① 27.1 × 19.2

② 27.4 × 18.9

Still 2 eggs, unchanged: nest has failed

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Arnold 3 — Hastings Reservation

(1 June) 1200. Noone in any other holes.

5 June 930. Noone in any holes here, including the nest, which I'm sure has failed.

10 June 1000. Noone in any holes here.

1100. Went up to the nest hole (where there were no birds) and found the same old 2 eggs! Clearly, however, this nest has failed (=been abandoned) as it is now the 12th day since I found them.

20 June 1625. Noone seen here in or out of holes. Plenty of stores still remain, however.

24 June 940. Watching.

1010 ① ♀ Mauve/LB-Red #207; ② ♂ LP?WN?/M #120; ♂ M/ ?? (12 / 123?), plus 2nd ♀ in granary eating acorns. ③ ♀ Yel/DB #128.

1014. 4 ♀♀ here at the moment. ④ ♀ DB-WN(n)/ #290. ⑤ ♀ M/Or #289.

1040. Leaving. All mostly quiet, and definitely no sign of a nest.

1050. See LA2 notes - possibly something going on after all.

Counted stores: NFork: 483; MFork: 92; SFork: 488 } 1063.

4 July 925. Watching.

1000 ① ♂ Red-WN/DB #120, ② ♀ Yel/DB #128, + 2nd ♂ here now in granary.

1028. ③ ♀ DB-WN(n)/DB #290.

1045. !! ④ ♂ WN/DB-WN WN/M #126!! (formerly of LA2)! Sitting here peaceably.

1055. ♂120 again and, subordinately, ⑤ ♂ M/ LB/R-WR #204. ⑥ ♀ Or-DB/Or #289.

1110. ⑦ ♀ Mauve/LA Red #207.

1115. ♀290, now 2 yrs old, still makes very convincing

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Arnold 3 Hastings Reservation

(4 July) squeaks and other soft begging noises entirely characteristic of babies. (This lasting for several minutes on end, no less).

1125. Leaving. Seems like ① No nest ② No unbanded birds(!) ③ ♂♂121 and 123 probably have left since Feb. to try their luck elsewhere, and ④ ♂126 has apparently returned again, for the 3rd(?) time after an unsuccessful attempt (his 2nd) to make a go at LA2.

6 July See LA2 notes for several A3 birds seen there.

16 July 1515. Flushed 1 bird from the granary, where stores do remain.

27 July 1900. Several birds roosting early in the nest hole here.

6 August Purge: ♂♂121 and 123; last seen here on 22 Feb. after returning home from the failure at LA2; gone [probably moved] by 18 May → Dis. about 31 March 1978 ± 1 month.

♂123 OK 8/6 & 12/12 78

8 August 930. Acorns are finally on the shorts here:

N Fork	24	31
M Fork	0	
S Fork	9	

2 September 730. No promising acorns left here: 0. Everybody on the Arnold is now out of stores.

15 October Ron watched here this morning and saw 4 birds: ①♂120, ②♀207, ③♀289, ④♀290 (plus a 2nd unidentified ♂). This group does have stores, at least.

22 October 1215. Nobody seen here but they do have stores:

N fork:	805	2207
M fork:	731	
S fork:	671	

24 November ♀207 and ♀290 seen here by Ron Mumme.

8 December 945. Watching.

1015. 3♀♀ showed up together: ①♀ -DB/OR #289, ②♀ +DB-WH(W)/DB #290,

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Arnold 3 — Hastings Reservation

(8 December) and ③♀ LB/LP # 207.

1030. ♀290 (now in her 3rd yr) still makes little begging noises (squeaks, etc.) in the presence of ♀207. She really acts for all the world like a baby.

1040. 4 birds now in granary, inc. ④♂ Red-LP/M # 120.

1045. ! ⑤♂ DB/M # 123 ! Holy cow! I had given up on this bird last March!. Birds sitting in '77 nest tree now.

1050. ♂123 flew off towards UAZ.

1130. ⑥♂ M/LB # 204 here now eating an acorn. ♀289, 290 here also. And ♀207.

1135. Leaving. Looks as though neither ♂122 nor ♀128 are here any more. However, ♂123 is at least revived.

26 December Purge: ♂122. Last seen 18 May, gone by 4 July (this bird had been crippled for some time) → Dis abt. 10 June ± 2 wks.

♀128. This girl was last seen on 6 July and was gone by 15 October → Dis. Abt. 25 August (at UAZ) ± 1 Month

This bird ~~dd~~ apparently gave up after being unable to pull off a clutch here during either of the past 2 years.

Revive: ♂123. Previously scrapped (6 August) after not having been seen since 22 Feb. Seen here on 8 December.

29 December 1415. ♀ OB/wn(n)/DB # 290 here when I came to count stores:

N fork: 626	Total: 1898.	Very good, considering!
M fork: 563		
S fork: 709		

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Upper Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

14 February — No sign of any birds here.
13 March — " " " " " "
30 March — No sign of anyone roosting in the nest tree on this foggy late afternoon.
18 April — 1510. No sign of anybody here.
3 May — 1610. Flushed ♂ DB-WRNs/DB #290 and ♀ M/Or #289 from the granary here (both 2nd yr A3 birds).
4 May — 1500. Possibly flushed one bird from here.
13 May — 1055. ♀ Yel/DB #128 from A3 at lip of the nest hole (76-77) here. My goodness. I wonder what's up here?
18 May — 920. 1 bird flushed from here, but noone in any holes.
21 May — 955. Noone seen here in passing.
22 May — 1810. Noone in the holes here.
25 May — 1300. Noone in the hole here.
29 May — 850. Noone seen here in passing.
1 June — 1205. " " " " " .
5 June — 915. " " " " " .
10 June — 1005. " " " " " .
20 June — 1615. " " " " " .
24 June — 1050. Flushed one bird from the general vicinity and then 2 birds - a ♂ and a ♀, from the old nest hole! I couldn't tell who they were, but something may be up after all. I am particularly suspicious that the A3 birds may be annexing this area (and its nest hole - used in 1976 by ♀128) rather than that there is a new group here, but in any case further investigation is required.
25 June — 1530. Flushed 3 birds from the hole (1♀, 2♂'s); thus went up and checked it, but nothing. Hmm.

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Upper Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

3 July 1920. Bird(s) roosting in that hole again. About time to watch and see if they've A3 birds after all.

4 July 920. Flushed ~~one~~ bird from this area. Noone in the hole.

6 July 715. Watching.

728. Directly below here in the canyon ♀ Yel/OS #128 (A3) is hawking. Otherwise no sign of anyone here.

733. Now? M/LP [#289?] (A3) Hawking down below.

736. Yes. Both ♀289 and ♀290 (for sure) showed up atop the granary briefly, then flew down below the nest tree where 3-4 birds are now hawking.

750. 5-6 birds now. ♀ Mauve/LP-Red #207.

850. ♂ WH-DB/WH WH-DB/M [#166?] hawking down here now. In any case, A3 seems to account for birds being here; this is merely part of their territory for now, and the birds roosting here are no doubt A3 birds.

806. Got a good look at the ♂ above - is ♂ WH-DB/WH WH-DB/M #412 (Bianca) He's not getting chased but is being looked at oddly by the A3 birds. Right now he's exploring the nest tree

815. Leaving.

16 July 1520. Flushed 1 bird from the area, but noone in any holes.

15 October No stores here or any sign of a group.

5 November One bird sitting around near here, but no stores or group.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 Hastings Reservation

14 February No sign of any birds (or stores) here; I strongly think that this group is gone.

17 February Still no sign of anyone here again today.

18 February 1550. 1 bird sitting atop outer tree.

1555. 1♂ and 1♀ in perch tree; flush to midtree on Bianca's knoll. ♀ appears ♀ WH/DB, ♂ M/LG; probably Bianca Girls - they certainly don't correspond to anyone (formerly) in the group here. Nonetheless, something may be going on here; I better plan on watching here soon.

1600. A ♂ and ♀ flew by again, first landing in the tree between the granary and the Top tree, ~~the~~ where the ♀ sapsucked, then up to the top tree itself: ♀ Mauve/Yel-Red. Solved: these birds are A3 birds, to wit: ① ♀ WH/DB = ♀ Yel/DB #128; ② ♂ M/LG = ♂ M/LB #204; and ③ ♀ Mauve/Yel-Red = #207.

22 February 3 of the 4 ♂♂ that had been living here are back at A3 and were seen there today (not surprisingly). See A3 notes.

24 February For now, purge ♂♂ 121, 122, and 123: last seen here 14 November; gone for sure by 22 Feb. 78 when seen at A3 but most likely abandonment occurred nearer to 31 December, ~~when~~ by which time the stores here had been depleted. → ~~Also~~ Abandoned about (seen again) 31 Dec. 1977 ± 2 weeks.

I'll leave the other 2 (the ♀ and 1♂) here for now pending further observing here and at A3.

13 March No sign of any birds here.

30 March Nobody roosting here late this foggy afternoon.

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Lower Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

18 April 1505. No sign of anybody here.

23 April 920. Something is up here - a bird seen atop the Blue Oak, plus some activity (including several ub ♂♂ in the area) which may be related. Watching.

935. A banded ♀ (I think) (♀ Lgt-Dk/LBlue?) came to the Blue Oak, checked a hole, then sat and cutted regularly for 4-5 minutes before leaving.

940. A Garrick. A ♀ is still here, Garricking (and apparently waiting to see if anything happens). 6 more Garricks. This is an unbanded ♀ here now for sure. Karrit-cutting.

944. Another Garrick, then drummed a second. This ♀ is interested. (Also, the Garricking seems to me more than ever to be a challenge of sorts: 1) "Who's here? Come out and show yourselves"; as well as 2) "If nobody's here, how about a mate? There seems to be this nice empty territory here, see, and..") This bird here obviously wants to make it clear to anybody who's here that she's interested, as well as perhaps advertising her presence to anyone else who would like to move in with her [redacted] (♂♂, I presume).

950. The ♀ finally left.

1000. All quiet. Things may get going here yet, but for now it just looks like a few exploratory ventures.

4 May 1600. Somebody here Garricking every few minutes. The bird is in the draw between LA2 and UA2. Otherwise quiet.

1605. With that bird gone, all is quiet. Still nothing definite here, it would seem.

1615. All quiet for now. Leaving.

1978 Walter D. Koenig

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Lower Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

9 May 1100. 1 or more birds here plus some activity. Watching.
1105. ①♂ wh/M #126(!) sitting here, also a bird in the '77 nest hole!
Some Garricking. A ♀ here now; bird out of nest hole
1120. ②♀ ub. Now here in the Blue Oak again.
1125. ③♂ Or/Mauve leg gone? #122 here now also - flycatching. Well well.
♀ub here also. With no acorns here, I'm not at all sure what's making this area so attractive. It certainly looks as though the group is reviving.
1132. More Garricking here.
1150. ♀ in the hole. More Garricking.
1200. Leaving. Looks good for these birds making a go of it - presumably the ub ♀ plus one or more of the A3 ♂♂ again (though I have to assume, I think, that ♂126 has been here all along - or no?) ♂126 is a problem to be decided later on.

11 May Though the precise composition of this group is unclear (as is it's history this winter) for the moment it seems clear that the following changes can be made:
Purge: ♀213. Last seen 14 November 1977. Gone with others by 22 Feb. 1978 → Abandoned about (Not seen again yet)
31 Dec. 1977 ± 2 wks (see notes for 24 Feb., p. 1)
28 May 1978 ... And Add ♀627 - save -2 ♀♀ here.
Add: ♀626 (unbanded). Moved here (age unknown) on or just prior to 27 April ~~or~~ 1978.
The story on ♂126 (and perhaps ♂122) is unclear at the moment - should they be considered having been here the whole time (probably not) or having moved home to A3 and then back here now? (complex but fits my observations better).

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Lower Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

13 May 1110. Flushed a bird from here, but noone in any holes.

14 May 815. Something up here: bird in the '76-'77 nest hole.

18 May 955. Noone in the holes here. ♂122 seen at A3 (see A3 notes).

21 May 1000. Noone seen here in passing.

22 May 1820. On a hunch I walked down here and stuck the net over the hole, and out came the unbanded ♀! (It's cold this evening and lots of birds were roosting already). She had what could be a brood patch, so the hole should be checked soon. In any case, I banded her as #439 and released her before dusk.

25 May 1345.! Flushing a ♂ out of the hole, I opened it up to find 6 - count them - 6! - eggs - including 1 runt! Time to have a serious watch here.

26 May 810. Watching. Bird in hole.

850. ⓒ♀ub preening here. Yes indeed - there do appear to be 2 ♀♀ here!

900. ♀ub here again, displacing 2 Starlings. 2nd ♀ in the hole.

903. ♀ in hole flushed out.

930. A banded ♀ intruder here briefly; ~~chased out~~ displaced by a ♂.

952. ⓒ♂ wm/rm #126 again here to deal with an intruder: ? Red-Blk/Red ♂ #382 from Road 3 - the 3rd R3 bird I've seen up on the Arnold in the past several weeks! ♀ub here again now.

1040. ♀ub just left hole; ♂126 here, too. Leaving for now. ♀ub hawking here.

1115. Returned and, successfully employing my mirror again, confirmed the set total of 6 eggs.

28 May 1005. Watching.

[go to p. 6]

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 Nest Record

25 May 1345

Hastings Reservation

Nest opened: 6 eggs - several opaque (but not ivory):

① 25.2 × 20.6 ④ 25.0 × 19.5

② 23.9 × 19.7 ⑤ 25.9 × 20.5

③ 24.3 × 19.6 ⑥ 20.3 × 17.3

26 May 1115

6 eggs.

1 June 1230

Nest empty; failed.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

(28 May) 1033. ♀ in hole and ①♀+Yel/Red #439 in tree; now ♀ leaves hole, ②♂ wh/M #426 joins ♀439. ③♀ub now in tree. She's going to get caught next time!

1045. ♀ub went in hole

1050. Went up and ambushed her – now ♀440. Leaving.

29 May 845. Noone in hole.

1 June 1230. As I'd feared, the nest is empty. Another failure which I can only hope wasn't due to my interference.

5 June 830. Noone seen here in passing.

10 June 1000. " " " " " .

20 June 1610. ♀ flushed from area but otherwise noone in holes.

3 July 1925. Nobody in holes here (everyone else seems to be already).

4 July 900. ♂ub (!) flycatching from the perch tree next door to the granary. Bird was hawking consistently from here until I left after 10 minutes. No sign of any banded birds.

915. ♂ub now sitting in Blue Oak granary. Looks like more changes here.

1045. ♂126 seen at A3 – see A3 notes.

5 July About time to do something about ♀213: despite the possible continuity of ♂126 here, I don't really believe he wintered (77-78) here. Unfortunately, I never saw him at A3 (as I did ♂♂121, 123) so I can't unambiguously say he returned there, either. My guess is that he did, but that I missed him in my 22 Feb. census. However, I will compromise as follows: ①I will assume that the entire group Abandoned this territory upon running out of stores on or about 31 Dec. '77. ②♂♂121, 122, and 123 all returned to A3 at that time. ③♀213 just out and out disappeared (=Abandoned, not seen again).

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 Hastings Reservation

(5 July) ♀♂126 left for parts unknown (probably returning to A3, but possible just hanging around the entire side of the hill anywhere between Bianca and A3) and then Returned here ≈3 May 1978 to join the 2 new ♀♀ who moved here in late April. The evidence for all this is fair-poor: the group clearly disintegrated in late Dec. or January. In Feb. I either saw noone here or - on 18 Feb - saw several A3 birds (but none of the ♂♂ who had been living here previously!); meanwhile ♂♂121, 122, +123 were all at A3 on 22 Feb. March again brought no sign of anyone here. Finally in late April the ♀♀ (only one was seen at the time) appeared, Courticking and seeming very interested in acquiring a mate (who did not seem present at the time). Then on 9 May ♂126 (and ♂122, also) reappeared here; only slightly later was it clear that ♂126 and the ♀♀ were nesting here, while ♂122 was not seen here again (but was seen again at A3).

6 July 820. Watching. I'd flushed a bird from here earlier.
850. ♂ w/ M #126 (presumably) here hawking. Also a ♀, I think.

7 July 610. 2 birds sitting here as I walked by

16 July 1525. Noone seen here in passing.

11 September 900. Watching. No sign of anyone in arrival.
945. A Brown Towhee atop the Blue Oak was displaced by an Ad ♂, who flew off before I could get his legs.
946. ♀ +ub here briefly, then flew off towards Bianca.
1015. Leaving. No more sign of a group here.

15 October No stores or any sign of a group here.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Arnold 2 — Hastings Reservation

5 November 1630. At least 4-5 birds flushed from this area towards Black Oak and/or possibly Bianca. One was seen as ? M/DB-? , possibly j455 from Black Oak but I'm not sure. No stores or any sign of a group here, however.

30 November Though ♂126 was seen ~~here~~ on 4 July, for all intensive purposes this territory was abandoned - certainly by the 2 ♀♀ - between 28 May and 3 July. (Note that ♂126 was seen at A3 on 4 July). -> Abandoned about 15 June ± 2 wks.

This territory is now empty. Note that it apparently was abandoned due to reproductive failure rather than to Acorn Crop failure.

If ♂126 is still around, I suspect that he is at A3.

29 December A bird was sitting in the perch tree when I walked by here this afternoon.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — Hastings Reservation

14 February 1140. 5-6+ birds in the area. Watching. ① ♂140. ② ♂ Wh-DK/Wh #412; ③ ♀ Or-Da/M #413. ④ ♂ M/LG #411 (all 3 babies!) ⑤ ♂ ub.

1200. ⑥ ♀ LBlue/ #303. Birds eating acorns. At least 3 sapsucking near the main granary area.

1300. ⑦ ♂ Or/Wh #214.

1340. j♂411 just got creamed by ♂ub for trying (and succeeding) to steal part of an acorn he was eating.

1420. ♀Da/Yel-Red ?? this is, I think, a 3rd ♀, and my guess is that she is actually ⑧ ♀ Yel-Red/ #141 (the Da actually being her tarsus; the "Yel-Red" part was seen fairly well).

1445. ! ⑨ ♀ M/LG-Red #251 at last! Looks like the problem may be her right leg, which doesn't seem entirely well (most likely her metal band is too tight).

1520. Leaving. Got all but 2. The first, ♂142, must be gone: he was always rather conspicuous, and now that I've gotten ♀141 and ♀251 I'm more sure of his absence. ♂217 would be hard to see if he's lost his wingstreamer; in any case it will take another watch before he can be scratched.

Looking for stores, I was only able to find 80, all in the "new" limb. Everything else is either empty or has fallen(!)

24 February Purge: ♂142. Last seen 1 Aug. 77, gone by 24 Sept. 77, → Disappeared about 28 August 1977 ± 2 weeks.

13 March 1220. As best I can tell, there are 2 stores left here. I did see Miss B. #140 plus one other bird, apparently sapsucking, in the area, however.

18 April ~~1400~~. 1500. 2 birds seen in the area, but nobody in any of the known holes.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — Hastings Reservation

27 April 915. One ub ♀ plus a 2nd ♀ in the upper area by the corral. Several of these strange(?) ♀♀ in this area (see Black Oak notes). Noone in any holes here. In fact, noone seen in the main area at all.

4 May 1520. Nobody seen here in passing in/out of holes.

9 May 1100. At least 1 bird in the area but noone in any holes.

13 May 1115. Noone in any holes here.

18 May 1010. 1 bird sitting around here, but otherwise nothing.

21 May 915. 1 or 2 birds sitting around here, but noone in any holes.

25 May Several birds in the upper edge of the territory here, but noone identified and noone in any holes.

28 May 1110. Again one or 2 birds sitting around, but noone in any holes and still no trace of Bianca.

29 May 650. Watching from hide on this warm morning (soon to be hot).

700. ① ♀ Y-Or Yel-Or/LG #141, ② ♂ ub, in perch tree.

720. ③ ♂ M/LG #411. This bird now here panting and sunbathing.

728. ④ ♂ Wh-Blk/M #412.

800. I've seen ♂ub and ♀141 several times now; ♂411 twice.

812. An intruding ub ♂ displaced by ♂ub. Another look at ♂411

820. Leaving. I doubt I saw everybody, but it's clear that the group is much diminished here - probably down to 5-6 birds - and most unfortunately, Bianca would not appear to be among them (alas!). No sign at all of a nest.

5 June 825. 2 birds sitting around here; noone in any of the holes.

10 June 1010. 1 bird flushed from here but noone in any known hole.

20 June 1605. Nobody at all seen back here in/out of holes.

24 June 705. Watching. 3 birds just flew by heading NE (toward Bell's)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — Hastings Reservation

(24 June) 905. Giving up. Taint nothing going on here at the moment.

25 June Purge: ♂140. Poor old Ms. Bianca was last seen on 13 March, and was missed on subsequent passes and on the watch of 29 May → Disappeared abt. 21 April 1978 ± 1 Month. Definitely the end of an era. Taint going to be another like him for many a year.

♂217. Last seen 23 Oct 1977, missed on the otherwise complete watch of 14 Feb. 1978 → Dis. Abt. 18 Dec. 1977 ± 1 Month.

3 July 1930. Flushed 5 birds from 2 roost holes here; probably close to the whole group.

4 July 800. Watching.

840. 2 birds over in the lower corner now.

900. Giving up.

6 July 620. Watching.

625. 2 birds here. ♂ ub just flew up, but was possibly chased (or chased someone else).

645. ♂♂ ub again, this time looking rather more at home.

700 and already things are clearly hopeless here. I ought to try in the evening or else really early - about 545 or thereabouts

810. ♂412 seen at UAZ - see notes.

7 July 615. Watching again

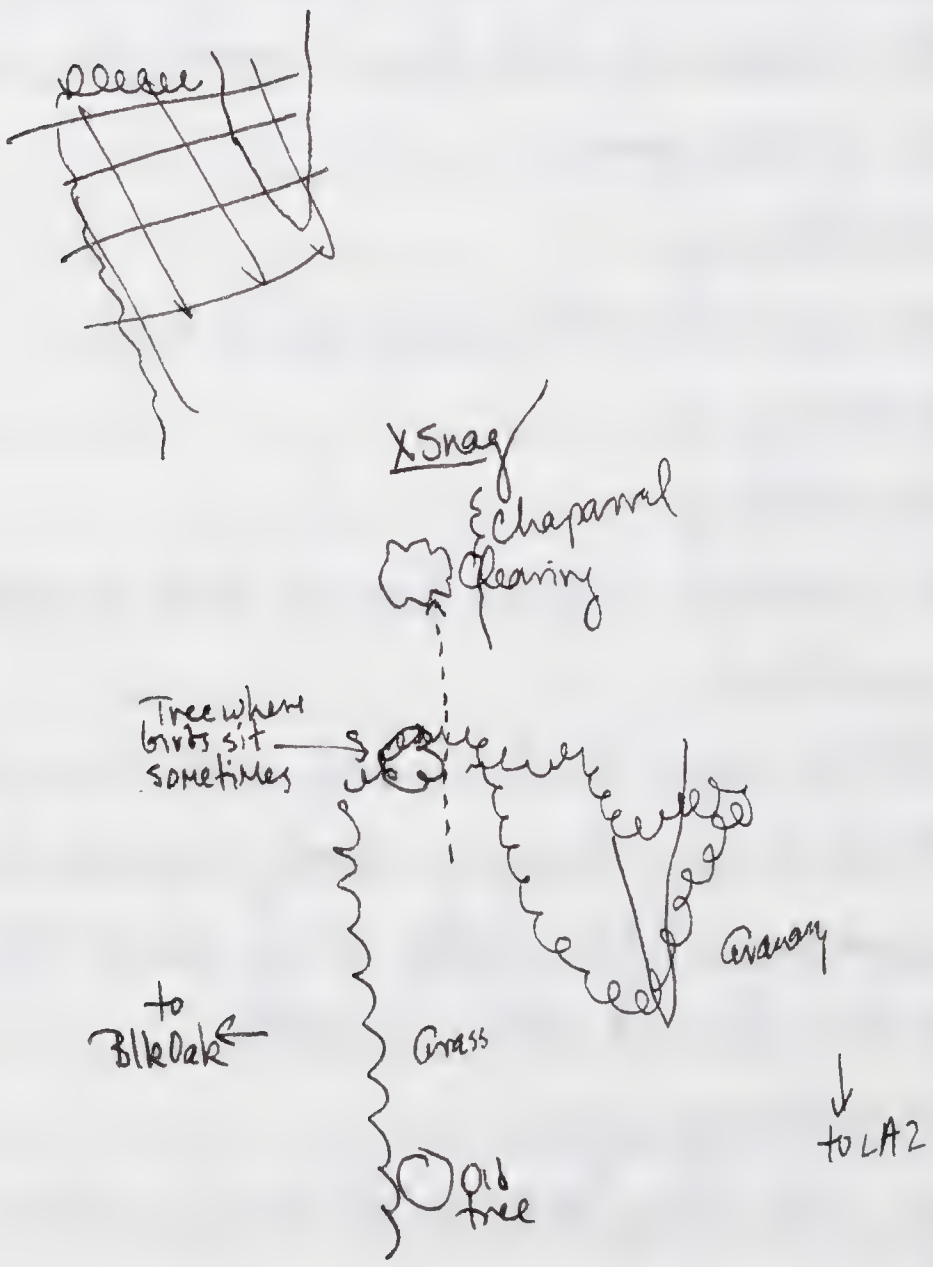
620. 2 ♀♀ sitting over on the knoll section

630. ♂♂ ub sitting around again.

700 - No.

16 July 1545. ! A bonanza! After checking out the main area and finding nothing as usual I walked down a little on the far side toward Jimmy's corral. After about 50m I hit a small clearing beyond which was a snag (see back): on 4 woodpeckers were sitting

16 July


X Snag
Chaparral
Clearing
Tree where birds sit sometimes
Grass
Grass
to Blk Oak
to LA2
Old tree

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — Hastings Reservation

(16 July) on it! Furthermore, they all obligingly showed me their bands: ① ♂ DB/Lc #411, ② ♂ Wh-DB/M #412, ③ ♂ Or/Wh #214, and ④ ♀ LB/Or-Lc #303.

21 September 1810. Coming here to watch roosting I flushed ♂ Or/Wh #214 from the area.

28 September 600. After several days of preparation an ambush this morning successfully yielded

① ♂ ab → 477, from the '75 nest hole

② ♀141, ③ ♂412, from the hole in the Blue Oak across the gulch. I have no idea where the others (?) are roosting.

This group does have stores now; it is also now presumably composed entirely of banded birds!

15 October 1030. Counted stores: ~~177~~ 175 (! All but 3 in "new" area + 2 in Blue Oak area. ~~Additional stuff in Blue Oak area!~~)

Very marginal. Didn't flush any birds.

9 November 1200. 2 birds sitting in the snag over on the lower edge where I saw the birds on 16 July. One, however, appeared to be ♂ Wh/Blk-Lc #428 from Black Oak.

30 November Purge: ♀251, ♀413. Both last seen 14 February (!), gone by ~29 May → Dis. about 6 April ± 1 month.

9 December 1230. 3 birds flushed from the area.

10 December 1100. Watching.

1115. ① ♂ Or/DB ♀. Who is this bird? ♂ Or/M/?? ② ♀ LP-Or/Light grn #141.

1130 ③ ♂ Blk/Or-Yel Blk/Or-Yel? What's going on here?

1150. ♂ ↑ drinking out the water hole in the Black Oak.

1200. Moved closer. ♀141 seen well.

1215. ③ is Black/Or-Yel Black/Or (lower left band apparently not split). This bird is ♂426 from Black Oak!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca Hastings Reservation

(10 December) 1230. ♂① is ♂ Or/[DB-?] M/DB-Yel(n) #321 from Black Oak.

1235. A spook - but I missed the perpetrator.

1300. Noone seems eager to return. Hopefully I have enough to identify the 2 new ♂♂. Leaving.

Looks as though these 2 ♂♂ have moved here for the time being, at least.

26 December Add: ♂♂426 and 321, Moved here on 12 November from Black Oak (see Black Oak notes).

Purge: ♀303 and ♂411. Last seen 16 July, gone by 28 September (at time of the ambush) → Disappeared about 22 August ± 1 month.

29 December Counted stores: 174. Still hanging in there, at least!